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Friday, March 11, 2011

INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS NEWS

CADILLAC MEN



Tiger Woods, left, and Phil Mickelson, right, walk off the 10th tee during the first round at the Cadillac Championship golf tournament in Doral, Fla., Thursday, March 10, 2011.

See Aruba Today Sports

U.S. NEWS

Backing off Head Start



Teacher Amanda Crabtree with a student at Kids Central Incorporated, part of the national Head Start educational program, in Norton, Va., March 10, 2011. The fight over federal spending intensified in legislation this week when two bills, the House Republican version with large cuts to Head Start and scores of other programs, and a Democratic rejoinder with far fewer trims, both failed in the Senate.

(The New York Times)
More on Page 2

Commercializing God



NICOLAI OUROUSSOFF

© 2010 New York Times

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia – It is an architectural absurdity. Just south of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, the Muslim world's holiest site, a kitsch rendition of London's Big Ben is nearing completion. Called the Royal Mecca Clock Tower, it will be one of the tallest buildings in the world, the centerpiece of a complex housing a gargantuan shopping mall, an 800-room hotel and a prayer hall for several thousand people. Its muscular form, an unabashed knockoff of the original, blown up to a grotesque scale, will be decorated with Arabic inscriptions and topped by a crescent-shape spire in what feels like a cynical nod to Islam's architectural past. To make room for it, the Saudi government bulldozed an 18th-century Ottoman fortress and the hill it stood on.

The tower is just one of many construction projects in the very center of Mecca, from train lines to a slew of luxury high-rises and hotels and a huge expansion of the Grand Mosque itself. □



New high rises fill the skyline behind the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Construction projects in the center of Mecca are reshaping its historic core in ways that many here find appalling, sparking unusually heated criticism of the authoritarian Saudi government.

(Salah Malkawi/The New York Times)

Saudi Police open fire



By NADA BAKRI

© 2011 New York Times

BEIRUT – Saudi police officers opened fire at a protest march in a restive, oil-rich province, wounding at least three people, according to witnesses and a Saudi government official. The crackdown came a day before a planned “day of rage” that officials have said they will not tolerate. Witnesses described the small protest march in the eastern city of Qatif as peaceful, but an Interior Ministry spokesman said demonstrators had attacked the police before the officers began firing, Reuters reported. The spokesman said the police fired over the protesters' heads, but 3 people were injured, including a policeman. □

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National Book Critics Circle Award

A Visit From the Goon Squad wins



NEW YORK - American novelist Jennifer Egan outside her home in New York. Egan won the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction at the Tishman Auditorium of the New School on Thursday night for "A Visit From the Goon Squad" (Knopf), a wildly inventive novel of interlocking stories.

(Chad Batka/The New York Times)

Head Start gets cut backs

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON – The difficulty that Senate Republicans faced voting this week for a bill full of spending cuts is best illustrated on the home page for the Alaska Head Start program's website.

On the bottom of the page is a picture of Sen.

Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, receiving an award for her long support for Head Start, the preschool program for poor children.

At the top of the page is a note imploring Alaskans to call Murkowski's office and beg her not to vote for a Republican bill that would cut the program's budget by \$2 billion, or nearly a quarter of President Barack Obama's 2011 budget request of \$8.2 billion. The current level is \$7.2 billion.

On Wednesday afternoon, Murkowski did so anyway.



The fight over federal spending intensified in legislation this week when two bills, the House Republican version with large cuts to Head Start and scores of other programs, and a Democratic rejoinder with far fewer trims, both failed in the Senate.

(Shawn Poynter/The New York Times)

The fight over federal spending intensified on Capitol Hill this week when two bills – the House Republican version with large cuts to Head Start and scores of other programs, and a Democratic rejoinder with far fewer trims – both failed in the Senate.

As the two sides begin to bargain in earnest, it is increas-

ingly clear that Democrats will be forced to justify the effectiveness and importance of a host of social programs singled out for cuts, while Republicans will have to grapple with the popularity of many of those programs among their constituents, and, as the case with Murkowski, in their own hearts. □



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In New York

'Radicalization' hearings reignite US Muslim debate



Prayers on streets in New York

By Michael Mathes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A US lawmaker was to hold provocative hearings on the alleged radicalization of US Muslims, in a move critics say fans anti-Islam sentiment nearly a decade after the 9/11 attacks. Representative Peter King,

the Republican who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee, has promised a thorough probe, setting the stage for one of the most controversial congressional debates since the 2001 attacks. I want Americans to realize the extent to which Al-Qaeda is attempting to radicalize

within the Muslim-American community," King said Wednesday in summing up his intent.

The nation's major Muslim groups -- none of which have been invited to testify at the Capitol Hill hearing -- and other rights defenders have blasted King's "fear-mongering." The seven million Americans who are Muslim deserve more than collective guilt by suspicion.

Shahid Buttar, who heads the non-denominational and non-partisan Bill of Rights Defense Committee.

By trafficking in bias and xenophobia, "Representative King aims to essentially be the (Joseph) McCarthy of the 21st century," Buttar said. McCarthyism refers to allegations of treason or subversion without proof, and was coined

after the former US senator's anti-communist witch-hunts in the 1940s and 50s.

King has said that Muslim leaders and mosque imams are doing too little to stop the radicalization of young Americans and are not cooperating with law enforcement. He has

also said most US mosques are controlled by extremists. The charges have alarmed US Muslim communities -- the very ones President Barack Obama's administration insists have been crucial to helping reduce the extremist threat. □

House panel delves into Muslims

By Jeremy Pelofsky
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Muslim Americans must do more to combat Islamic radicalization as al Qaeda targets them to help carry out terrorism plots, a lawmaker said as he convened hearings critics said unfairly singled out Muslims. Peter King, the chairman of the House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee who convened hearings to examine Islamic radicalization, has accused the Muslim community of refusing to cooperate with law enforcement and charged that preaching in some U.S. mosques was leading to radicalization. "To combat this threat, moderate leadership must emerge from the Muslim commu-



Woman holds sign supporting Muslim Americans

nity," King said. "Today, we must be fully aware that home-grown radicalization is part of al Qaeda's strategy to continue attacking the United States."

The hearings spotlight increasing concerns about the threat of home-grown terrorism and attempts by al Qaeda to recruit from mosques in the United States to carry out attacks in this country and abroad.

Some lawmakers said King's approach unfairly demonized a single religious group, tarnishing them in their communities and instilling a sense of fear that deters them from coming forward to report suspicious activity.

Democratic Representative Keith Ellison, the first Muslim to serve in the House, wept as he recounted how a 23-year-old Muslim paramedic died when he responded to the September 11 attacks in New York City and later was smeared because of his faith. He said the young man, Mohammed Salman Hamdani, should be recognized for giving "everything for his fellow Americans" rather than solely as a member of a religious group. □

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In Alaska

Obscure musher gets gold nuggets



Brennan Norden's dog team

By Yereth Rosen
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska— A little-known contestant from Idaho was the first to reach the halfway point in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, while several top teams struggled with a variety of dog and human ailments.

Trent Herbst arrived early morning at the abandoned gold-mining town of Iditarod, the midway checkpoint in the 1,100-mile route from Anchorage to Nome, race officials said. For that accom-

plishment, Herbst was awarded a special prize \$3,000 in gold nuggets.

Herbst is a fourth-grade teacher with only six years of mushing experience. His best finish in the Iditarod was 48th place.

He was followed about an hour later by Kelley Griffin, a musher from Wasilla, Alaska, the only woman to run both this year's Iditarod and this year's 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International sled-dog race.

Farther back on the trail, past

champion Mitch Seavey was pulled from the race by officials after slicing several fingers while cutting open a bale of hay at a checkpoint. Another favorite, five-time champion Rick Swenson, was still trying to reach Nome despite a suspected broken collarbone suffered in a fall on Monday. Four-time champion Lance Mackey was down to only 10 dogs out of his original 16. Several dogs were dropped from competition after falling ill.

Two-time runner-up Paul Gebhardt dropped out of the race on Tuesday after too many of his dogs fell ill.

Still, veterans like Mackey and four-time champion Martin Buser were poised to surge past Herbst and Griffin.

Buser, Mackey and several other top mushers have completed the mandatory 24-hour break that all mushers must take at some checkpoint along the race, while the two nominal leaders have yet to complete that layover.

The Iditarod began Saturday in Anchorage. Sixty-two mushers and their dog teams started the race. Along with Seavey and Gebhardt, five others had dropped out of competition as of morning. □

In California

Facebook Abuser doesn't deserve prison sentence



George Bronk

By DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A man accused of violating the online privacy of women by making public their intimate photos was portrayed by his lawyer as a naive, bored young person who had a drinking problem and didn't recognize the public embarrassment he was causing.

Defense attorney Monica Lynch said her client George Bronk was immature, unemployed and killing time while he cared for his ailing parents and made a hobby of trolling women's Facebook pages, looking for their e-mails and gleaning enough personal information to answer basic In-

ternet security questions.

He would then search for nude or seminude photos and videos the women had sent to their husbands or boyfriends, and distribute the images to the contact lists of the women, authorities said.

Bronk, 23, pleaded guilty in January to charges including computer intrusion, false impersonation and possession of child pornography. The state attorney general's office wants him to serve six years in prison. A probation officer is recommending four years behind bars. A judge delayed Bronk's sentencing until sometime after a hearing on May 2, when Bronk's family members plan to testify. State corrections officials will then evaluate him for 90 days to recommend if he should go to prison. Lynch said her client should get probation.

"He was bored and he was drinking, and his entertainment was sitting in front of his computer and doing these things," Lynch told The Associated Press outside court. "He is gentle, and he is sweet, and I do not see him fitting into the mainstream prison population." □

In rural Tennessee

Two mature bald eagles found shot



Pair of bald eagles

By Tim Ghianni
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee— A national symbol the bald eagle appears to be under attack in rural Tennessee. Two bald eagles have been found shot within a 30-mile radius in the Cumberland Plateau area, a couple of hours east of Nashville, according to wildlife experts.

Officials are offering up to \$17,000 in reward money for information leading to those responsible.

We don't know what kind of mindset an individual would have to shoot the national symbol, says Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency spokesman Dan Hicks of the February killings. It's really disturbing.

While bald eagles have been taken off the endangered species list, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, both federal statutes, make killing these birds illegal. Conviction carries maximum penalties of up to \$100,000 and/or a year in federal prison, according to John Rayfield, special agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rayfield doesn't think the shootings were accidental, since it's difficult to mistake the majestic bird with its white tail and white head for anything else.

If someone said 'I accidentally shot it; I thought it was a vulture,' well, it's illegal to shoot a vulture too. If they said they thought it was a wild turkey, well, it's not turkey season. □

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US President Barack Obama

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama smiled when he said his large ears and funny name once made him a target of school-yard harassment. But he was all seriousness when he told a White House conference on bullying that torment and intimidation must not be tolerated.

Some 13 million students, about a third of all those attending school, are bullied every year, the White House said. Experts say that puts them at greater risk of falling behind in their studies, abusing drugs or alcohol, or suffering mental or other health problems. Kids who are seen as different because of their race, clothes, disability or sexual orientation are more likely to be bullied.

"If there's one goal of this conference," Obama said, "it's to dispel the myth that bullying is just a harmless rite of passage or an inevitable part of growing up. It's not." □

In Indiana

Over 8,000 union protesters converge

INDIANAPOLIS — Over 8,000 workers converged on the Indiana statehouse to protest proposed legislation they say would weaken unions and public schools.

Most Indiana House Democrats left the state over two weeks ago to avoid giving the majority Republicans the two-thirds quorum needed for a vote on the legislation.

Protesters hung a banner outside the west front of the Statehouse proclaiming "Hoosiers Standing up for the Middle Class." The cold, sun-



Indiana House Minority Leader Pat Bauer

less windy weather may have kept the crowds down organizers had expected more than 20,000.

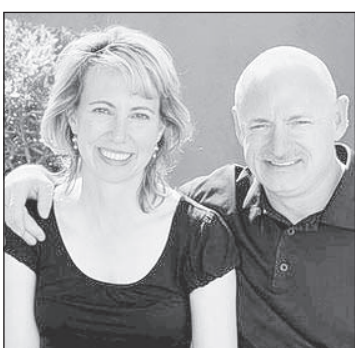
The Indiana House is not in session until Monday.

Democrats object to bills they see as anti-worker. Their main targets include a bill that would create a state-wide school voucher system, allowing public funds to pay for private school tuition, and a bill that would prohibit bidders on public works projects from entering into labor

agreements, Schorg said. A third bill would mean that public employees don't have to pay union dues.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels backs the voucher program because it would give more choice to students from low-income and middle-income families, according to Scott Jenkins, Daniels' education policy director. He compared it to public aid that goes to college students whether they attend private or public universities. □

Gabi Giffords to attend husband's shuttle launch



The Giffords

By RAMIT MASTI
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords plans to attend the launch of the space shuttle Endeavour next month to see off her astronaut husband, a person close to the family told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the family and doctors have not yet publicized the decision. A news conference was scheduled for Friday morning at the Houston hos-

pital where Giffords is undergoing rehabilitation.

Giffords was shot in the head Jan. 8 at a political event outside a Tucson, Ariz., grocery store. Six people died in the rampage, and 12 others were wounded. Giffords has been slowly recovering from a traumatic brain injury.

Her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, will be the commander of Endeavour when it launches in April, and his identical twin brother Scott is the current leader of the International Space Station crew. Mark Kelly has been training for the mission and said earlier he hoped his wife would be able to see him off.

But despite seemingly steady improvements the latest include singing with her husband and chanting Hebrew healing prayers doctors have been cautious. □

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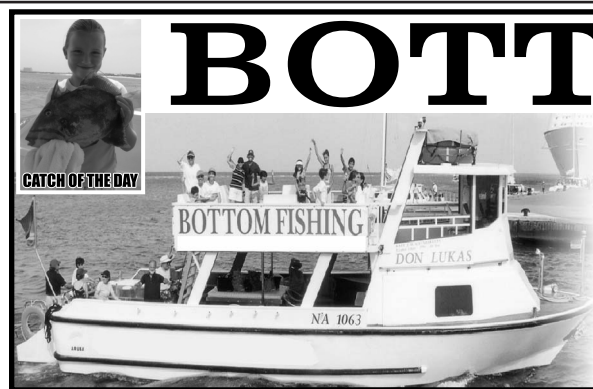
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In Kansas City

Single-sex lunches benefit school children

By Kevin Murphy
Associated Press

Kansas City, Missouri – Single-sex lunches introduced in three schools in America's heartland have helped to reduce misbehavior among students and improve eating habits, authorities said.

The Wichita, Kansas middle schools, for students aged 11 to 14 years old, started the separate lunches for boys and girls to reduce teasing, roughhousing and flirting. "The girls really seem to like it because they get their girl time without having to worry about boys," said Michael Archibeque, principal at Pleasant Valley Middle School. "And the boys don't show off for the girls. I think it's the perfect age for this."

But what Archibeque likes most is that more students are finishing their food, which means less waste and fewer students having to study while hungry in the afternoon.



Pleasant Valley Middle School

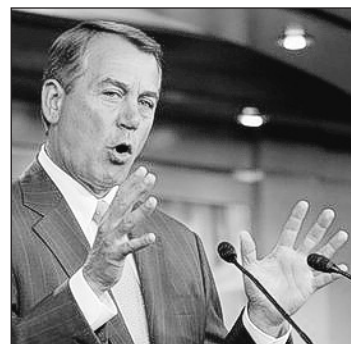
At Truesdell Middle School in Wichita, which has had single-sex lunches for two years, the positive impact lasts even after lunch is over, according to Principal Jennifer Sinclair. The students seem to have adapted to the single-sex lunches, Sinclair said. When a mixed-gender lunch was offered recently as incentive to encourage school fundraising, the kids were not interested.

It is not clear how many schools in the United State have single-sex lunches. A spokesman for the Kansas Department of Education said Wichita is the only school dis-

trict she has heard of in the state with that policy.

Single-sex education is growing rapidly in the United States following evidence that boys and girls may do better academically and socially by being in separate classrooms. In January, at least 524 public schools had classrooms that were single sex, up from about a dozen in 2002, according to the National Association for Single-Sex Public Education. The association did not have figures on how many schools with co-educational classrooms have single-sex lunchrooms. □

Tea Party pressures Boehner into battle



House Speaker John Boehner

By Thomas Ferraro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner is under pressure from fiscal conservatives in his own party to push steep spending cuts, with a Tea Party stalwart likening the Ohio Republican to "a fool" for not taking a sharper knife to public programs. Boehner's House Republicans are leading the way in the rush to cut spending to bring down the budget deficit, due to reach a record \$1.65 trillion this year, equivalent to 10.9 percent of the U.S. economy. Republicans have proposed cuts of \$61 billion in fiscal year 2011 from current levels, a step President Barack Obama says would choke the faltering economic recovery. But for some in the Tea Party, it is not enough. They say the figure should be at least \$100 billion. Congressman Boehner, you look like a fool, Judson Phillips, founder of Tea Party Nation, one of the

loosely organized conservative movement's most prominent groups, wrote in a recent blog. The Tea Party movement sprang up in 2009 as a reaction to insane government spending. In 2010 election, the American people spoke, demanding change, Phillips wrote. John Boehner did not get the message.

The Tea Party pressure comes as Boehner leads the Republican side in negotiations with the White House and Democrats to work out a spending bill for 2011. They must reach a long-term deal or a short-term funding bill by March 18 or some government services will shut down. Boehner, 61, a former small businessman from America's heartland, has been a frequent partisan warrior during his two decades in Congress. The son of a bar owner, Boehner used to share a bathroom with 11 siblings at their childhood home in Ohio. He has a natural mistrust of big government. And dozens of Tea Party backers, fiscally conservative Republicans, were elected to the House in November, forming a powerful bloc to keep Boehner focused on spending. Complaints by Tea Party Republicans have already forced Boehner to almost double the amount of spending cuts proposed this year from \$32 billion. □

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Early Birds are welcome between 5 and 7 pm at Tango, which is located across from the Radisson Resort. At Arawak Garden there is nightly live entertainment, shops, a wide variety of other restaurants and a piano bar. □



New gang in Mexico

See Page A15

Distinguished Guests honored at Aruba Marriott



PALM BEACH – At the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, Mr. and Mrs. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Helmers were acknowledged with the “Distinguished Guests of Aruba” title by the Aruba Tourism Authority presented by ATA representative Jonathan Boekhoudt.

As loyal Marriott Platinum member and guests at the Aruba Marriott Mr. and Mrs. Miller from McHenry, Illinois have been visiting Aruba for thirteen years consecutive. Their enthusiasm to

visit Aruba each year is based upon their positive experiences such as the warmth and friendliness of the people, the great weather and beautiful sea and excellent restaurants. As a timeshare owner and loyal Marriott guests the Mr. and Mrs. Helmers from Waverly, Iowa plan a two weeks vacation yearly to Aruba. They fell in love with the bounty island of Aruba sixteen years ago and have been coming ever since. The combination of the



warm sun, friendly people, and relaxation on the beach are a few of the factors that make the Helmers come back each year. Mr. Helmers got lucky after two hours arriving in the hotel in the Stellaris Casino. After twenty minutes playing the popular King Kong slots, he won the jackpot of \$4,350.97. A great start of the vacation. As they missed out on the carnival parades, the Aruba Marriott Sales & Marketing team showed the Helmers headpieces used during carnival. Aruba Tourism Authority's representative Jonathan gave a wonderful speech thanking both couples

for your loyalty to their home away from home and presented them with their own commemorative plaque.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guest-rooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. □

At Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts

New Jersey couple exchange rings & vows



EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – March 10, 2010 – New Jersey natives Jon and Cathy Yenesel's dream wedding at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, Aruba's premier resort for

romance, occurred on February 14, 2011, the symbolic day for love. The newlyweds married in Aruba together with no friends or family present to focus primarily on themselves and their commitment to each other. "After losing my mom to cancer three years ago, I didn't want to have a traditional wedding back home; she would have been so missed and it would have been too sad," said new bride Cathy Yenesel. "Instead, we focused on us and a place we love and we plan to have a nice reception when we get home."



In for a treat!

Cool FM and CILO City Lounge dole out gift certificates

ORANJESTAD - Listeners to popular radio station Cool FM are in for a treat! The station, which can be found at 98.9 on your dial, offers the possibility to win lots of gift certificates for breakfast, brunches, lunches, dinners, snack platters during Friday's Happy Hour (5 – 7) or specials as well as other prizes at CILO City Lounge, the marina-view restaurant on the corner of the Renaissance Marketplace. Just listen closely to DJ's Alex during his 'Morning Show', Rico Rijk during 'Rico in de morgen', DJ Big Rig, Robert Yeah, DJ-101 and on Saturdays 'Papa Bear' and grab your chance when it comes by. The Cool FM – CILO promotion runs until Saturday, March 26.

Winning is easy: just sms or call Cool FM at 734-2665 when the DJ of the moment says so and voilà! Listening to Cool FM is just as easy: the local radio station transmits live from its main street studio in downtown Oranjestad and is always on top of the



news, playing the latest and coolest tracks in between happy chatter. Cool FM's faithful audience is widely varied.

Tony Roma's is the island's headquarters for ribs!

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Great ribs put Tony Roma's on the map, but the menu also features an array of flame-grilled favorites including steaks, seafood and chicken. The menu also serves up fresh salads, fantastic burgers and sandwiches, grilled fresh local fish, mouthwatering desserts and delicious appetizers - especially the popular, made-from-scratch Onion Loaf.

Today, there are more than 240 locations on five continents. From Seattle to Miami, Tokyo to Madrid, and Calgary to Aruba, Tony Roma's is creating an international incident with its flame-grilled fare. Discover why Tony Roma's is now an island dining institution!



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PALM BEACH -- The Radisson Aruba Resort Spa & Casino threw a Pizza and Ice Cream Party on Thursday, in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom, in honor of all resort associates. Glenn Farro, Director of Human Resources



reports that the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa had scored the highest of all the Radisson's full service resorts, in the last quarter of the year 2010, thanks to the dedicated efforts of all associates. General Manager Rob Smith and the Executive Committee decided to reward their winning team with a Pizza and Ice Cream party in gratitude for the tremendous achievement,

taking time to congratulate them individually for their priceless contributions. Pictured here, fun party moments. Medallia is a system in which Customer Feedback is captured and shared by all stakeholders, with the desire to interpret the data and improve company performance, and all aspects of customer satisfaction. □

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The gesture was very well-received by those in the parade and those watching. The group was terrifically costumes in the casino colors, red and gold, wearing top hats, tail coats, vests and over-size bowties reflecting traditional vintage clothes of Poker Dealers and a Saloon Girl. All costumes were decorated with recycled dice and cards, casino uniforms from the and Cool Casino, with the finger on the local pulse, contributed nicely to Aruba's greatest celebration! □



In California

Arion Wine wins Wente Family Estates Legacy Award

ORANJESTAD / California – The Wente Family is proud to announce Arion Wine Company as one of the winners of the third annual Wente Family Estates Legacy Awards, held on February 28, 2011 at the Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, the two-day event commenced with the highly anticipated Legacy Awards Dinner, followed by the Legacy Awards Pro-Am at The Course at Wente Vineyards. The awards are categorized based on distributor size, with Tier One selling the highest quantity. Equally notable were awards given in the importers category as Wente Family Estates has had a long history of exports around the globe. In the category international importers, Arion Wine Company in Aruba was one of the winners for most successful growth of

Wente Family Estates' wine portfolio. Lastly, Legacy Recognition Awards were presented to brands that showcased outstanding sales performance for Wente Family Estates properties Hayes Ranch, Tamás Estates and Wente Vineyards. "The Legacy Awards honors top distributors and importers who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in distribution and successful wine portfolio growth. As we celebrate our 128th year in business, we like to pay tribute to the people on the ground who help make our company the ongoing success it is," said Carolyn Wente, CEO of Wente Family Estates. About Wente Vineyards Named a Top 30 wine company by Wine Business Monthly based on U.S. case sales,

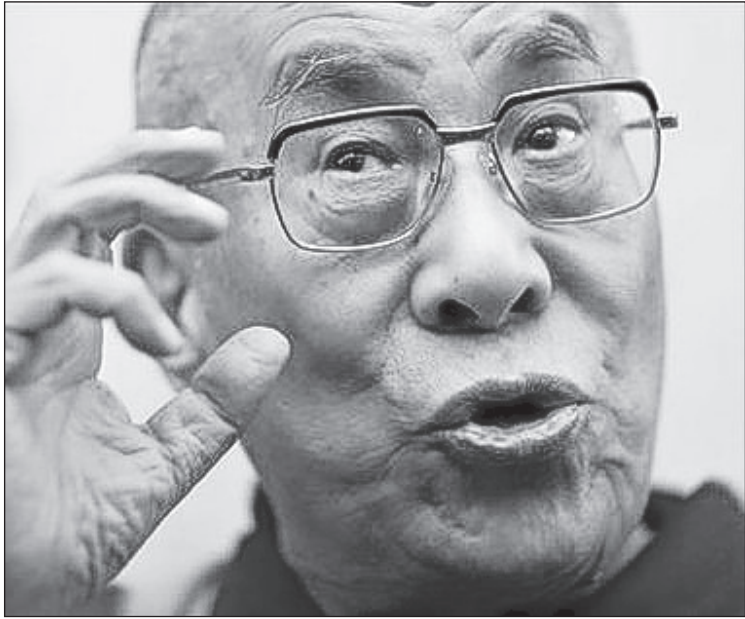


Wente Vineyards is also the country's oldest continuously operated family-owned winery. Today, Wente Vineyards is led by the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family. More than 125 years of committed stewardship to the land has led to the development of

Wente Vineyards' Farming for the Future program, a system of sustainable viticultural practices designed to produce the best quality wines with the least environmental impact. This philosophy extends to all aspects of winery operations, where energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling

and social responsibility are all integral to the culture. Located just east of San Francisco in the historic Livermore Valley, Wente Vineyards is recognized as one of California's premier wine country destinations, featuring wine tasting, fine dining and championship golf.

Dalai Lama plans to quit as Tibet political leader



Dalai Lama

By Abhishek Madhukar
Associated Press

DHARAMSALA, India – The Dalai Lama said he would step down as Tibet's political leader, a move seen as transforming the government-in-exile into a more assertive and democratic body in the face of Chinese pressure.

By devolving his powers, the Dalai Lama would give the prime minister greater clout as the region seeks autonomy from China. Tibetans will vote for a new prime minister this month, with the elections seen as ushering in a generation of younger, secular leaders and strengthening the movement's global standing.

The Dalai Lama, whose announcement was widely expected, will remain Tibet's spiritual leader and continue to advocate "meaningful autonomy" for Tibet from the northern Indian town of Dharamsala, where he has lived in exile since 1959.

The prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Samdhong Rinpoche, told reporters it was not clear if the parliament would accept the Dalai Lama's resignation and warned of a constitutional deadlock. China, which regards the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist responsible for stirring unrest in Tibet, denounced his resignation as a "trick". By divesting his political powers, Dalai, 75, Lama has made it more difficult for China to influence the course of the independence movement after his death, analysts say. China has ruled Tibet with an iron fist since Communist troops marched in 1950. □

Pope's new book:

Violence never in God's name

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY – Pope Benedict XVI rejects the idea of Jesus as a political revolutionary and insists that violent revolution must never be carried out in God's name in a new book that was released amid great fanfare at the start of Lent.

"Jesus of Nazareth - Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection," is the second installment of Benedict's planned trilogy on Jesus. Part I, which covered Jesus' early ministry, shot to the top of the best-seller lists in Italy when it was published in 2007. Already, 1.2 million copies of Part II have been printed in seven languages, editions in Arabic, Greek, Korean and Japanese are planned, and reprints of 100,000 more are planned for the Italian editions and 50,000 in German. At the official launch Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who heads the Vatican's office for bishops, said he felt he was living in a "historic moment" because the book was ushering in a new era of theological analysis that blended faith with history.

To underline the significance of the event, the pope's personal secretary Monsignor Georg Gaenswein attended the presentation.

In the book, Benedict exonerates the Jews as a people for Christ's death. He also insists



Pope Benedict XVI

that Jesus never advocated violent revolution, as some liberation theologians have suggested, saying violence was not his way no matter how idealistic the motivation.

Benedict has spoken out frequently to denounce religiously motivated violence against Christians in the Middle East, Pakistan and elsewhere. "The cruel consequences of religiously motivated violence are only too evident to us all," he noted in the book.

The Vatican and its foreign-language publishers have gone to remarkable lengths to promote the new book, coordinating the release of excerpts, scheduling prime-time news conferences and releasing the 362-page text to coincide with the run-up to Holy Week, when the faithful commemorate Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

The Rev. Giuseppe Costa,

who heads the Vatican's publishing house, said that with the "marathon-like" publicity campaign under way, he believed that within a year the book will have outsold the first installment of "Jesus of Nazareth," which has been out for four years and sold 2 million copies. In the book, Benedict concludes that while Jesus died for all of humanity, the Jews as a people weren't responsible for the death. Rather a few Jewish leaders and their supporters were to blame, he said, affirming that the centuries of mistrust of Christians toward Jews was deeply misplaced. While the Catholic Church has been teaching that for nearly 50 years, the fact that the pope said it so authoritatively prompted praise from major Jewish groups and a thank you note from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. □

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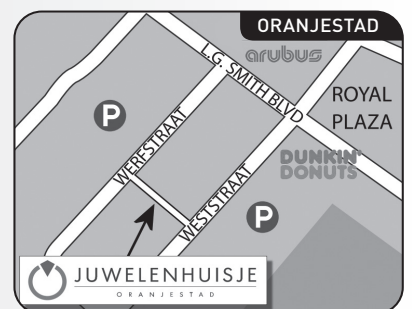
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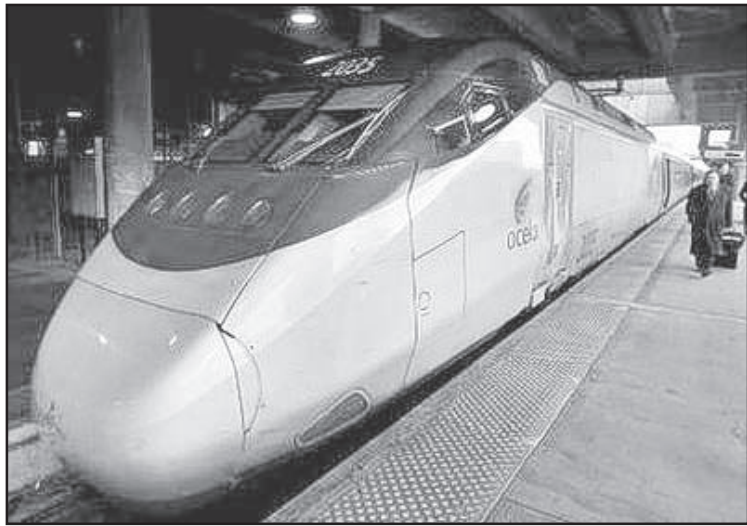


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Why does the right wing hate trains?



Amtraks high speed Acela

New York — Republican governors are turning down stimulus money for rail improvements, and the GOP wants to defund Amtrak. What's going on?

What do conservatives have against rail travel, asks Dave Weigel at Slate. Republican governors like John Kasich (Ohio), Scott Walker (Wisconsin) and Rick Scott (Florida) have all rejected stimulus funding for high-speed rail projects since being elected last year. The Republican Study Committee now wants the government to yank funding from Amtrak, and the president's \$53 billion proposal to boost high-speed rail has been met with a chorus of boos from the opposition. Why exactly does the right wing hate trains?

The Right considers trains a poor investment: Conservatives don't like trains for economic reasons, says Megan McArdle at The Atlantic. Put simply, rail is never going to work at "anything close to a decent cost-benefit ratio in most of America." Not enough people will ride them to make the numbers work. Rail advocates say that if you build it, passengers will come. But conservatives rightly think that spending "tens of billions of dollars" on a risky proposition is a bad bet.

The Right thinks trains will turn us into socialists: Yes, rail projects can be dismissed as risky investments, says Weigel at Slate. But there's also a more complex, "cultural" reason why conservatives dislike them. □

In Saudi Arabia

Can 'day of rage' be prevented?

New York — Activists plan to press for political and social reforms on Friday. Will the House of Saud face an uprising like the ones that have rattled the region?

Saudi Arabia's royal family is pulling out all the stops to prevent Friday's scheduled "day of rage" from exploding. Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal warned that protests are not allowed, and urged reform advocates to embrace "the principle of dialogue," not revolt. To be on the safe side, the government has moved thousands of extra troops to potential hot spots. Will this be enough to avert an uprising?

No. Brace for chaos: Saudi Arabia, which permits zero dissent, is "the most tyrannical authoritarian regime in the Arab world," says Eric Blair at Hamsayeh. Even King Abdullah's "hastily-crafted \$35 billion social aid package" failed to quiet "the revolutionary whispers" that have sent Saudi stocks plummeting and oil prices soaring, on fears that chaos will disrupt shipments of Saudi crude. It looks to many analysts like "the Saudi regime is the next to fall."

The rage will be limited: Saudi Arabia won't see anything like the outbursts of anger in neighboring Egypt and Bah-



Saudi protesters

rain, says Saud Kabli, a political commentator for the Saudi newspaper Al-Watan, as quoted by VOA News. Leading activists and businessmen are calling for sweeping political and social reforms, but they lack a "coherent vision." There will be supporters "here and there" for the "day of rage," but it will be a long time before the movement reaches critical mass. Plus, any uprising would be crushed: If you're expecting a "full-blown revolution," think again, says Michael Snyder at The Economic Collapse. Saudi Arabia has "a very, very long history of denying even the most basic freedoms to the people." If it takes brutality to keep a lid on the unrest, the royal family won't hesitate. "If you plan on being a revolutionary in Saudi Arabia you

had better put your big boy pants on, because the Saudis play hardball."

Will the day of rage in Saudi Arabia on March 11 send the price of oil into unprecedented territory? □

The Wars of Religion

By RANIA ABOUZEID
Associated Press

The angry, aggressive crowd formed within minutes of my arrival. Dozens of Muslim men, all in ankle-length galabiyas, suddenly came together in the middle of the dusty, dirt path leading to the Church of the Two Martyrs in this poor, mixed Christian-and-Muslim village some 210 kilometers south of Cairo. They were determined to block access to what has become a sectarian sore, a church overrun by Muslim locals and desecrated, an act that has prompted desperate national calls to maintain the inter-religious unity forged in Tahrir Square during the uprising that overthrew President Hosni Mubarak. The village dispute stems from a romantic relationship between a Christian man and a Muslim woman in the town.

The woman's relatives wanted to "cleanse their honor" of the smear of being with a Christian man, according to local media reports and as well as several of the Muslim men who gathered around me. □

Will the world recognize the Libyan opposition?



French President Nicolas Sarkozy
Robert Dreyfuss
Associated Press

The Nation -- Muammar Qaddafi's troops are reportedly making gains in what increasingly looks

like a full-blown civil war in Libya. West of the capital, Tripoli, the battle for Zawiyah continues to rage, while there are reports that pro-Qaddafi troops have made important gains in the eastern oil port of Ras Lanuf, which had fallen to the rebels.

But there's promising movement on the diplomatic front toward international recognition of the Libyan opposition as the government of Libya, which could trump the stalemate, delegitimize Qaddafi, and provide a legal basis for the United Nations to welcome a new Libyan government into the world community.

Though who's who in the anti-Qaddafi forces isn't clear yet, Secretary of State Clinton says that she'll meet with the Libyan opposition during the Middle East trip from March 13-15, probably in Cairo. "We are reaching out to the opposition inside and outside of Libya. I will be meeting with some of those figures both here in the United States and when I travel next week to discuss what more the United States and others can do," she said.

Meanwhile, NATO is meeting behind closed doors to discuss the crisis in Libya, reportedly split over whether or not to support a no-fly zone

and other military measures, but NATO announced that has already begun 24-hour surveillance of Libyan air space. Significantly, Russia has banned all arms sales to Libya. And France has officially recognized the Libyan rebel opposition, in the form of the Libyan National Council, and two of its representatives, Mahmoud Jibril and Ali Al-Esawi, met President Sarkozy of France in Paris. Qaddafi seems increasingly boxed in, and though he's sending emissaries around the world and calling foreign leaders, including heads of state in Greece and South Africa, he's not finding many friends. □

Scuffles between Tunisian troops, stranded workers



Refugee camp at the Tunisia-Libyan border

By EMILIO MORENATTI
Associated Press

RAS AJDIR, Tunisia — Scuffles erupted at a transit camp for thousands of migrant workers who fled fighting in Libya and are stranded in neighboring Tunisia.

Tunisian troops pushed back hundreds of angry laborers from Bangladesh who tried to force their way into a U.N. storage facility at the camp. The protesters said they are not getting enough to eat and aren't being repatriated quickly enough. At one point, troops beat demonstrators next to them before the situation was brought under control.

Troops asked journalists observing the confrontations to leave the camp.

In all, more than 250,000 mi-

grant workers have fled Libya for neighboring countries, primarily Tunisia and Egypt, since an uprising against Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi erupted more than three weeks ago, migration officials said.

While tens of thousands have already been flown home by their governments, thousands more, mainly from Bangladesh and several African countries, have had to wait for aid agencies to repatriate them because their countries do not have the means to do so.

The exodus from Libya has remained steady over the past few days, with between 2,000 and 3,000 reaching Tunisia every day, said Firas Kayal, a spokesman for the U.N. agency for refugees. □

Is Colombian "dry Canal" plan real?

By VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — This nation that lost its isthmus to U.S.-backed separatists a century ago long has dreamed of creating an alternative to the Panama Canal, which has given its neighbor so much strategic heft and wealth in shipping tolls.

So when President Juan Manuel Santos recently said Colombia and China were working on building a "dry canal" to connect the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea by railway, Colombians wondered: Is it for real? Or is it just another of many pipe dreams to rival Panama's crossing. In an interview with The Financial Times last month, Santos called the plan "quite advanced." What he did not explain was that the plan remains largely conceptional, senior government officials, Chinese diplomats and industry authorities told The Associated Press. In an interview Wednesday, Transport Minister German Cardona called the proposed railway "a rough draft an idea" floated by the Chinese four or five months ago.

He said he was also unfamiliar with a project Santos mentioned in a New York Times interview published last weekend to build a related city for 250,000 people on the Caribbean coast. □

In Chechnya

Women abused if refuse to cover head

By VLADI CHENKOV
Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — The cars pull up in broad daylight. Security forces point guns at terrified women and shoot. It turns out they're paintball pellets, but still harsh punishment in Chechnya for leaving home without a headscarf.

Chechnya's strongman Ramzan Kadyrov has imposed an Islamic dress code on women, and his feared security forces have used paintball guns, threats and insults against those refusing to obey.

In a 40-page report released Human Rights Watch condemned the campaign as a flagrant violation of women's rights and urged other nations to raise the issue with Mos-



Chechen students

cow.

Kadyrov rules with the support of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who has counted on him to stabilize the mostly Muslim region in southern

Russia after two separatist wars in the last 16 years. Russian authorities have turned a blind eye to the treatment of women and other rights abuses in Chechnya. □



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Afghan forces to start taking over



Afghan police officer demonstrates his skills

By **SLOBODAN LEKIC**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Afghan forces will soon replace NATO-led troops in charge of security at six sites across Afghanistan the first step in a transition that Afghan President Hamid Karzai hopes will leave his troops in control across the nation by the end of 2014, The Associated Press has learned.

The provincial capitals of Lashkar Gah in volatile south-

ern Afghanistan, Herat in the west and Mazar-i-Sharif in the north are slated for the first phase of transition from NATO-led forces to Afghan soldiers and police, a Western official told AP.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because Karzai plans to formally announce the sites March 21. All of Bamiyan and Panshir provinces, which have seen little to no fighting, are on the tran-

sition list, which many Western diplomats and military officials have. Also slated for transition is Kabul province except for the restive Surobi district, the official said. Afghan security forces earlier took charge of security in the capital, Kabul.

Except for Lashkar Gah, the list excludes nearly all of southern and eastern Afghanistan, where the fiercest fighting is under way. NATO forces that are currently in the lead or partnered with Afghan forces in the six areas are to either take on support roles, including training and mentoring, be redeployed to other areas of the country, or sent home. □

In Libya

Brazilian journalist freed

SAO PAULO — A Brazilian newspaper is reporting that a correspondent who had been missing in Libya for a week has been released from a jail outside the North African country's capital.

The Estado de S. Paulo newspaper is reporting on its website that Brazilian reporter Andrei Netto has been taken to the residence of Brazilian Ambassador to Libya George Ney Fernandes.

There is still no word on the whereabouts of a correspondent for Britain's Guardian newspaper, Ghaith Abdul-Ahad. Abdul-Ahad had been with Netto.



Andrei Netto

The newspaper reports that Netto had been captured by troops loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. It says that Netto is unhurt, in good health, and is expected to leave Libya on Friday. □

Spain is optimistic on banks, despite Moody's downgrade

By **Denholm Barnetson**
Associated Press

MADRID — Spain's banks will need just 15 billion euros to clean up their balance sheets, the central bank said rebuffing predictions by Moody's which sliced the country's credit rating hours earlier.

The shortfall, which concerns a total of 12 banks, was less than the government's ceiling of 20 billion euros and well below the forecast by Moody's ratings agency of 40-50 billion euros.

The Bank of Spain's report responded to tough government measures unveiled last month that require banks to raise their minimum levels of core capital in a bid to shore up confidence in financial institutions and the wider economy.

Under the new regulations, the banks must raise the proportion of core capital they



Moody's cut Spain's long-term debt rating by a notch to "Aa2" with a negative outlook

hold to 8.0 percent of total assets from the current six percent, or 10.0 percent if they are unlisted.

Those that have fallen short had to reveal by March 10 how much they need to raise to meet the new requirements. Spain's 17 regional savings banks, which have already re-

ceived some 12 billion euros in public funds last year, are considered the weak link in the financial system.

They are still struggling under the weight of loans that turned sour after the 2008 property bubble collapse and are at the heart of fears the country could need an Irish-style international rescue. □



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In Yemen

President vows reform

As protests continue



Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh

By Mohamed Sudam
Associated Press

SANAA- Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh, hoping to defuse increasingly violent protests against his 32-year rule, said he would draw up a new constitution to create a parliamentary system of government.

An opposition spokesman swiftly rejected the proposal, and called for the continuation

of anti-government rallies, which kicked off in January and have claimed almost 30 lives.

Impoverished Yemen, a neighbor of oil giant Saudi Arabia, is one of several Arab states that have seen mass protests this year, with Saleh looking increasingly weakened by the unrest.

Speaking to thousands of cheering supporters gathered

in a soccer stadium, the autocratic Saleh said he wanted to form a unity government to help put in place a new political system.

Yemen is a presidential republic, where the head of state wields significant powers. But as water and oil resources dry up, it has become increasingly difficult to fuel the patronage system that kept his tribal and political backers loyal. □

New gang in Mexico

By GUSTAVO RUIZ

Associated Press

MORELIA, Mexico — Banners hung in a western Mexican state announced a previously unknown gang calling itself the “Knights Templar,” less than a month after local La Familia drug cartel said it intended to disband.

The signs said the “Knights” will replace the cartel, which is considered Mexico’s leading trafficker of methamphetamines, and fend off any other gangs looking to make inroads in Michoacan state.

There was no immediate comment from police, who quickly removed the banners hung from footbridges, in a public square, on a monument and elsewhere in cities including the state capital of Morelia, as well as in Zitacuaro and Apatzingan.

Such signs are commonly used by drug gangs to threaten rivals, to deny responsibility for crimes or to send messages to authorities.

It is the first public mention of a group by that name, and the authenticity of the banners could not immediately be confirmed.

The name alludes to a Christian order of knights founded in 1118 in Jerusalem to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land after the First Crusade. □

In Rome

Berlusconi's push to ending appeals



Ex-Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi

ROME — Premier Silvio Berlusconi’s government approved proposed legislation to drastically overhaul Italy’s justice system, including ending the possibility of prosecutors appealing acquittals.

The premier insisted that the constitutional reform legislation “is in the interest of all citizens,” but critics say the reforms are meant to aid him in his judicial woes.

The media mogul goes on trial next month on charges of paying for sex with an underage Moroccan teenager. Other trials in Milan involving Berlusconi stem from business-related corruption or tax fraud charges. He denies all wrongdoing. For years, the center-right leader has contended that he is the innocent victim of prosecutors he depicts as sympathizing with the political left. Berlusconi has promised the reforms will bring “epochal” change to Italy’s justice system, long criticized at home and abroad for being slow. Trials can take years and in many cases are thrown out when statutes of limitations run out, leaving citizens to wonder if the defendant was innocent or not. □

Attempt to free Danish family from Somalia fails



S/V Quest yacht that belonged to Danish couple

By ABDI GULED

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — An attempt by Somali security forces to free a Danish family from a pirate gang turned deadly after the would-be rescuers walked into an ambush, a pirate and a security official said.

Pirate Bile Hussein told The Associated Press that armed forces from Somalia’s semiautonomous northern region of Puntland tried to surround the village of Hul Anod and free the family but were beaten back before they were in position. He said some government forces were killed and others were captured but did not give exact figures. □

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It's been nearly nine weeks since that tragic shooting in Tucson, and you may be wondering whether there's been any gun legislation proposed in the aftermath.

Well, in Florida, a state representative has introduced a bill that would impose fines of up to \$5 million on any doctor who asks a patient whether he or she owns a gun. This is certainly a new and interesting concept, but I don't think we can classify it as a response to Tucson. Jason Brodeur, the Republican who thought it up, says it's a response to the health care reform act.

A sizable chunk of this country seems to feel as though there is nothing so secure that it can't be endangered by Obamacare. It's only a matter of time before somebody discovers that giving everyone access to health insurance poses a terrible threat to the armed forces, or the soybean crop, or poodles. Brodeur's is one of many, many gun bills floating around state legislatures these days. Virtually all of them seem to be based on the proposition that one of the really big problems we have in this country is a lack of weaponry. His nightmare scenario is that thanks to the "overreaching federal government," insurance companies would learn who has guns from the doctors and use the information to raise the owners' rates.

However, it turns out that the health care law has a provision that specifically prohibits insurers from reducing any coverage or benefits because of gun ownership. A St. Petersburg Times reporter, Aaron Sharockman, looked this up. I had no idea, did you? Apparently Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid himself stuck this in to make the gun-lobby folks happy.

Which they really aren't. The gun lobby will never be happy, unless the health care law specifically requires every American to have a pistol on his or her person at all times.

Great idea! thought State Rep. Hal Wick of South Dakota, who tossed in a bill this year requiring every adult citizen to



By GAIL COLLINS

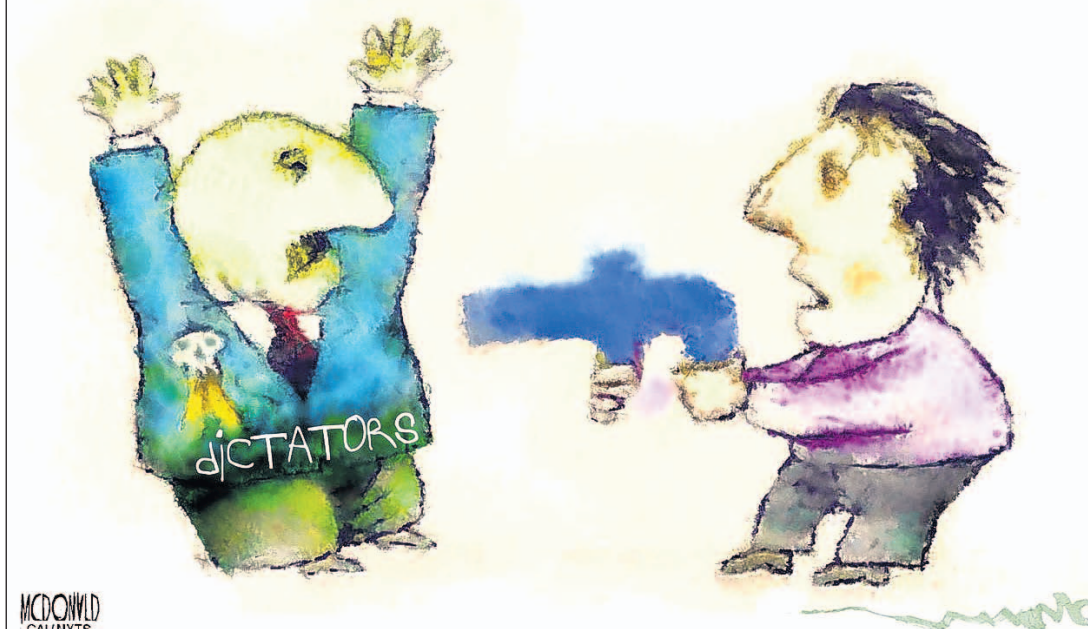
purchase a gun. Actually, even Wick admitted this one wasn't going anywhere. It was mainly a symbolic protest against the you-know-what law.

Actual responses to the Tucson shooting — that is, something that might actually stop similar tragedies in the future or reduce the carnage — seem to be limited to a proposal in Congress to ban the sale of the kind of ammunition clip that allowed the gunman to fire 31 shots in 15 seconds. That bill is stalled at the gate. Perhaps Congress has been too busy repeatedly voting on bills to repeal the health care law to think about anything else. But, so far, the gun-clip ban has zero Republican supporters, which is a problem given the matter of the Republicans being in the House majority.

Meanwhile in the states, legislation to get more guns in more places (public libraries, college campuses) is getting a more enthusiastic reception. The nation's state legislators seem to be troubled by a shortage of things they can do to make the National Rifle Association happy. Once you've voted to allow people to carry guns into bars (Georgia), eliminated the need for getting a permit to carry a concealed weapon (Arizona) and designated your own official state gun (Utah — awaiting the governor's signature), it gets hard to come up with new ideas. This may be why so many states are now considering laws that would prohibit colleges and universities from barring guns on campus.

"It's about people having the right to personal protection," said Daniel Crocker, the southwest regional director for Students for Concealed Carry on Campus. □

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Case for a No-Fly Zone



By N. D. KRISTOF

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"This is a pretty easy problem, for crying out loud."

For all the hand-wringing in Washington about a no-fly zone over Libya, that's the verdict of Gen. Merrill McPeak, a former Air Force chief of staff. He flew more than 6,000 hours, half of them in fighter aircraft, and helped oversee no-fly zones in Iraq and the Adriatic, and he's currently mystified by what he calls the "wailing and gnashing of teeth" about imposing such a zone on Libya.

I called McPeak to get his take on a no-fly zone, and he was deliciously blunt:

"I can't imagine an easier military problem," he said. "If we can't impose a no-fly zone over a not even third-rate military power like Libya, then we ought to take a hell of a lot of our military budget and spend it on something usable."

He continued: "Just flying a few jets across the top of the

friendlies would probably be enough to ground the Libyan air force, which is the objective."

McPeak added that there would be no need to maintain 24/7 coverage over Libya. As long as the Libyan air force knew that there was some risk of interception, its pilots would be much less motivated to drop bombs and more inclined to defect.

"If we can't do this, what can we do?" he asked, adding: "I think it would have a real impact. It might change their calculation of who might come out on top. Just the mere announcement of this might have an impact."

Along with a no-fly zone, another important step would be to use U.S. military aircraft to jam Libyan state television and radio propaganda and Libyan military communications. McPeak said such jamming would be "dead easy."

As he acknowledged, any intervention also has unforeseeable risks, and, frankly, it's a good thing when a president counts to 10 before taking military action. But I hope that President Barack Obama isn't counting to a googolplex.

The secretary of defense, Robert Gates, has said that a no-fly zone would be "a big operation in a big country" and would begin with an attack on Libyan air defense systems. But McPeak said that the no-fly zone would be imposed over those parts of the country that Moammar Gadhafi doesn't control.

That may remove the need to take out air defense systems pre-emptively, he said. And, in any case, he noted that the U.S. operated a no-fly zone over Iraq for more than a decade without systematically eradicating all Iraqi air defense systems in that time.

If the Obama administration has exaggerated the risks of a no-fly zone, it seems to have downplayed the risks of continued passivity. There is some risk that this ends up like the abortive uprisings in Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968, or in southern Iraq in 1991.

The tide in Libya seems to have shifted, with the Gadhafi forces reimposing control over Tripoli and much of western Libya. Now Gadhafi is systematically using his air power to gain ground even in the east. As the International Institute for Strategic Studies, an arms analysis group in London, noted this week, "The major advantage of the pro-regime forces at the moment is their ability to deploy air power."

I'm chilled by a conversation I just had by phone with a Libyan friend with military connections who has been candid in the past. In our latest conversation, he sounded as if our conversation was being closely monitored, and he praised Gadhafi to the skies. I can't tell whether he believed that or had a gun pointed to his head. □

Dilshan, Tharanga power Sri Lanka into quarters

Zimbabwe's Prosper Utseya, left, is stumped for four runs by Sri Lanka's wicket keeper Kumar Sangakkara during their Cricket World Cup match in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, Thursday, March 10, 2011.

Associated Press

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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, March 11, 2011



Andreas Kloden, of Germany, pulls on the overall leader jersey on the podium after winning the fifth stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race in Vernoux-en-Vivaraais, south eastern France, Thursday, March 10, 2011.

Associated Press

Kloeden wins stage 5 of Paris-Nice

VERNOUX-EN-VIVARAIS, France (AP) — Former champion Andreas Kloeden beat Samuel Sanchez of Spain in a sprint finish Thursday to win the mountainous fifth stage of the Paris-Nice race and take the overall lead.

The 35-year-old German finished 119.7-mile ride from Saint-Symphorien-sur-Coise to Vernoux-en-Vivaraais in 4 hours, 59 minutes. The stage contained two category 1 climbs and one smaller category 2.

"I came to this race with ambitions, but I never thought to take the yellow jersey," Kloeden said. "I survived the first nervous days without major crashes. Today I was ready for a good performance."

Continued Page B/2

MADNESS and MAHAN



Opening round was suspended by darkness



NBC golf announcer Roger Maltbie holds up what is left of the leaderboard on the 18th hole after a storm destroyed it during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Doral, Fla.

Hunter Mahan hits from the 11th tee during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Doral, Fla. Associated Press
Page B3

Murali works his magic again

SIMON HAYDON

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — It took yet another moment of genius from Muttiah Muralitharan, the master of spin, to settle fears that outsiders Zimbabwe could mount a serious challenge to Sri Lanka's innings of 327 in a World Cup game on Thursday.

After a record-setting 282-run first wicket partnership from Tillakaratne Dilshan (144) and Upul Tharanga (133), Sri Lanka looked set to cruise to victory in front of a packed stadium in the central Sri Lankan city of Kandy.

But just like India the day before, Sri Lanka faltered in the face of a 116-run opening Zimbabwe partnership, inspired by an aggressive knock of 80 from Brent Taylor.

Then Muralitharan, in his third over, produced his "doosra" from his bowling armory, bowling a legspinner that looks like an offspinner and confusing batsman Regis Chakabva into playing inside the ball and missing.

It couldn't have happened in a better place, or at a better time. Murali, as he known, was bowling in his home town of Kandy for what is probably going to be the last time.

Work done, the world's leading wicket taker, 38 years old, was able to relax as Zimbabwe tumbled to 188 all out and Sri Lanka advanced to the quarterfinals. Murali ended with impressive figures of



Sri Lankan bowler Muttiah Muralitharan unsuccessfully appeals for the wicket of Zimbabwe's batsman Regis Chakabva, unseen, during the Cricket World Cup match between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, Thursday, March 10, 2011.

Associated Press

3-34 from nine overs, even if his analysis was overshadowed by Dilshan's 4-4 to add to his impressive century.

A country away in the Indian city of Bangalore, another veteran, Australian paceman Brett Lee, acknowledged that at 34 years old he is a smarter bowler these days, but still thrives on "seeing the stumps fly."

Lee, described by skipper Ricky Ponting as the glue that

holds his pace attack together, is still central to Australia's bid to retain the World Cup. "I'm still out to bowl fast," he said.

"I said about six months ago that if I couldn't hit that 150kph (93mph) mark I wouldn't want to be playing cricket, which is the truth.

"I enjoy the pace, I enjoy seeing the stumps fly," he told reporters as Australia prepared to play Kenya on Sunday.

South African selectors were facing a dilemma: select top wicket-taker Imran Tahir despite his broken thumb or listen to the doctors' advice and rest him for 10 days. Tahir can bowl as the fractured thumb is on his non-bowling hand, but he risks aggravating the injury while batting or fielding.

England batsman Kevin Pietersen may have returned home to have a hernia operation, but some believe that his replacement, Eoin Morgan, may do a better job.

Morgan has proved himself against the handy spinners produced by Bangladesh, while Pietersen has of late become easy prey for slow bowlers, especially legspinners. □



Tyler Farrar, of the United States, celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the second stage of the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race, in Indatore, Italy, Thursday, March 10, 2011.

Associated Press

U.S. rider Farrar wins 2nd stage of Tirreno

INDICATORE, Italy (AP) — American sprinter Tyler Farrar won the second stage of the weeklong Tirreno-Adriatico race Thursday and also took the overall lead.

Led out by Garmin-Cervelo teammate Thor Hushovd, Farrar beat Italian rider Alessandro Petacchi in a mass sprint, finishing the 126-mile route from Carrara to Indatore in 4 hours, 56 minutes, 6 seconds. "We were motivated and the team was perfect," Farrar said. "When the world champion is riding for you, you have to win." Petacchi finished with the same time and Juan Jose Haedo of Argentina crossed third, also with the same time. Farrar holds a two-second lead over Dutch rider Tom Leezer in the overall standings. Leezer is on the Rabobank team that won the opening team time trial Wednesday.

Farrar's Garmin squad finished second in the time trial. German rider Andre Greipel did not start after getting badly bruised in a fall Wednesday.

Stage 3 on Friday is a 117-mile leg from Terranuova Bracciolini to Perugia.

Many riders use this race as a warmup for the season's opening single-day classic, the Milan-San Remo on March 19. □

Kloeden continued from Page B1

A victory is of course more than (I) expected."

As a group of eight riders approached the line, Janez Brajkovic led Kloeden to the front for RadioShack in a favorable attacking position. Kloeden surprised himself by beating Sanchez, the Olympic road race champion, for speed in the final meters. "I cannot remember when I won my last race in a sprint," Kloeden said. "It is not really my specialty but Jani Brajkovic told me to get on his wheel, that he would lead the sprint for me, and I thought I might as well try. "I was in a good position. I never thought to be able to beat Samuel Sanchez in a sprint." loeden, who won the race in

2000, leads Sanchez by four seconds overall and is six in front of Matteo Carrara, who took third place Thursday.

Kloeden is adept at time trials, as he has proven in the Tour de France, but also possesses climbing ability. He will be suited by the race against the clock in the sixth stage, a short but intense 26.7-mile ride from Rognes to Aix-en-Provence. Tony Martin is 10 seconds behind in fourth place, and Kloeden believes the German has a chance to take the leader's jersey.

"Tomorrow we have a very hard time trial and we know Tony Martin will be very good," Kloeden said. "It's hard to beat him in a TT and he was very good today, too." □

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Hunter Mahan storms into lead at Doral

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Florida (AP) — Hunter Mahan raced to 7-under par and the early lead as Thursday's opening day of the Cadillac Championship was curtailed by powerful winds that toppled television towers and Doral's giant scoreboard. Mahan birdied his opening four holes and kept right on rolling until the storm-delayed opening round was suspended by darkness. He didn't miss a green or come close to a bogey in 11 holes.

Mahan, the only American winner in the last five World Golf Championships, didn't get much attention in a tournament that tried to drum up some drama by grouping players by their world ranking. The biggest crowd belonged to Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson in a rare weekday pairing, with Graeme McDowell along for the ride. They scrapped their way around Doral without challenging the leaders — Mickelson at 2 under, with Woods and McDowell another shot back through 15 holes.

The top three players did a better job living up to their billing.

Martin Kaymer, in his second week as the new No. 1, opened with three straight

birdies and was at 5 under through 10 holes. Match Play winner Luke Donald (No. 3) joined him with a birdie on the 10th hole, while Lee Westwood (No. 2) was another shot behind.

Mahan went out in 30 on the back nine, which included birdie putts of 35 and 40 feet. At 7 under, he was two shots clear of Charley Hoffman, who had a 5-under 67 and was among nine players in the 66-man field who were able to finish the round.

Among those at 5 under with still more golf to play in the first round were 19-year-old Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and 48-year-old Vijay Singh, who only got into this tournament last week. Nick Watney and Matt Kuchar also were at 5 under.

"I guess with that storm, it brought tranquility to the golf course," Mahan said.

It was chaotic for an hour. Woods and Mickelson were on their way to the 10th tee to start the round when dark clouds gathered and the siren sounded to stop play. Players on the course were brought into the clubhouse, and that's when the action began.

Gusts that reached 83 kph (52 mph) knocked down the large, manual scoreboard — a traditional fixture at Doral beyond



Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson greet each other on the tenth tee during the first round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

the lake to the left of the 18th green — and left it in pieces. A stationary camera in a TV tower behind the ninth green captured video of another TV tower behind the eighth green crashing down into a bunker. The tower where it was stationed was blown over back-

ward into a pond, with the camera going to the bottom. Divers had to retrieve it.

No one was injured, and while 17 newly planted palm trees were uprooted, the course was fine.

For Mahan and so many others, it was better than that.

"The course is in perfect shape," Mahan said. "Good

players and a good golf course and benign conditions, you're going to have some good scores."

But the largest gallery sure didn't see great golf.

Woods missed five birdie putts inside 15 feet on his front nine as he made the turn in 37, and didn't look as if he was making much progress. □

Baker-Finch competing again in Champions Tour

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Two days before Australian Ian Baker-Finch is to make his debut on the Champions Tour, he hits his first shot in a pro am round at Newport Beach Country Club.

The ball flies effortlessly over a small pond on the 143-yard par 3 and comes to rest 12 feet below the hole.

It is an excellent shot, but it is not in a competition and no one realizes that more than Baker-Finch.

"The most important competition is actually playing, putting the pencil on the card, shooting a score when it

counts, when the cameras are on," Baker-Finch said.

Baker-Finch's inability to do that is what made him walk away from professional golf at the age of 36 after shooting an opening round 92 at the 1997 British Open and promptly withdrawing.

After years of purgatory, Baker-Finch is ready to return to competition Friday in Southern California, even if it is in a limited capacity.

"Not many people wish their lives away and can't wait until they get to 50,"

Baker-Finch said. "But to get a chance to come out and play on the Champions Tour is go-

ing to be a great thrill for me." That enthusiasm is slightly tempered by thoughts of the past repeating itself.

"It's not a nervousness, it's more of maybe a fear of failure, or just apprehension," Baker-Finch said.

"It troubles me so much that you feel bad about yourself. It's not an anger management thing.

It's more of trying to make emotions be more positive rather than down.

But I think I will be fine." Baker-Finch's performance in the 1997 British Open was his second major letdown at the oldest major championship. □

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matinee: 1.45 **SP** **PG-13**
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matinee: 12.00 - 2.15 **SP** **PG**
late show: 12.00

UNKNOWN
daily: 4.00 - 6.30 - 9.00 **PG-13**
matinee: 1.30
late show: 11.30

BIG MOMMAS HOUSE 3
daily: 7.00 - 9.30 **SP** **PG-13**
matinee: 12.00

DRIVE ANGRY
daily: 4.30 **R**
matinee: 12.00 - 2.15
late show: 11.30

THE KINGS SPEECH
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NHL Roundup

Kings beat Red Wings to boost playoff hopes



Los Angeles Kings' Anze Kopitar, left, of Slovenia, is congratulated by Justin Williams after their 2-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings in an NHL hockey game Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in Detroit. Kopitar scored their first goal of the second period.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings kept up their surge in a tight playoff race in the NHL Western Conference by beating the Detroit Red Wings 2-1 on Wednesday. Dustin Brown and Anze Kopitar scored L.A.'s goals in the second period while

Jonathan Quick made 28 saves. Darren Helm opened the scoring for the Red Wings in the first. Detroit has lost four straight and trails Vancouver by nine points for the top spot in the Western Conference.

Lightning 4, Blackhawks 3, SO

In Tampa, Steven Stamkos scored his NHL-leading 42nd goal as Tampa Bay returned to the winners' list by downing Chicago in a shootout. Martin St. Louis had the shootout winner, ending the Lightning's season-worst four-game losing skid. He also scored in regulation, helping Tampa Bay build a 3-1 lead before the Stanley Cup champions roared back through goals by Patrick Sharp and Jonathan Toews. In the shootout, St. Louis spun in front of the net, set himself and fired the puck past Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford.

Flames 4, Stars 3, SO

In Dallas, Curtis Glencross scored in the third round of the shootout to lift Calgary over Dallas and into a fourth place tie with Chicago in the Western Conference, a point ahead of the Stars. Alex Tanguay scored in the second round and Dallas' Mike Ribeiro countered on

a nifty move in the third. Glencross, who scored the deciding goals in Calgary's previous two games, beat Kari Lehtonen with a snap shot. Rene Bourque, Tom Kostopoulos and Anton Babchuk scored first-period goals during a 3:15 span to get the Flames off to a fast start. Jamie Benn, Ribeiro and Tomas Vincour scored for Dallas.

Ducks 5, Rangers 2

In Anaheim, Corey Perry and Lubomir Visnovsky each had two goals and an assist as Anaheim beat New York. Visnovsky, who last Friday became the first defenseman in franchise history to get a hat trick, increased his points total to 54 — tying Detroit's Nicklas Lidstrom and Phoenix's Keith Yandle for the NHL lead at the position. Bobby Ryan added a goal and three assists for the Ducks. Brandon Dubinsky and Marion Gaborik scored for New York. In Washington, Alex Ovechkin had two goals and

an assist to reach 601 career points as Washington trounced Edmonton.

Ovechkin passed Michal Pivonka to gain sole possession of third place on the team's career points chart. Only Peter Bondra (825) and Mike Gartner (789) have more points in a Washington uniform than Ovechkin, now in his sixth NHL season.

Rookie goaltender Braden Holtby stopped 22 shots for his first career shutout as the Capitals made it six straight wins.

Eric Fehr scored twice in his return from a 22-game absence because of a shoulder injury, Alexander Semin also scored and Jason Arnott had an assist for his 900th career point.

In other NHL games it was Tampa Bay 4, Chicago 3, SO; Calgary 4, Dallas 3, SO; Washington 5, Edmonton 0; Atlanta 3, Carolina 2, OT; St. Louis 4, Columbus 3, OT Los Angeles 2, Detroit 1; and Anaheim 5, N.Y. Rangers 2. □

Stakes, tension rise in NFL labor talks

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Pro Football Writer

WASHINGTON — The tension and stakes rose in the NFL labor talks with only a day left before the twice-extended collective bargaining agreement expires, increasing the possibility of the league losing games to a work stoppage for the first time in nearly a quarter-century. With the two sides far apart on key economic issues, nine of the 10 members of the owners' labor committee joined NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Thursday at the office of the federal mediator overseeing the talks — but, the union said, none of the owners met with any players. Even though there were small-group negotiations between NFL and union representatives, no one gave any indication that progress was made. Indeed, the loudest words came in the evening, during a series of back-and-forth barbs sparked by league general counsel and lead negotiator Jeff Pash's comments. "Things can come together quickly. Things can fall apart quickly," Pash said when the NFL negotiating team left for the day. "I've said it many times: If both sides have an equal commitment to getting this deal done, it will get done. I don't know if both sides have an equal commitment. ... Obviously, we have the com-

mitment."

When those comments were relayed to NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah, he responded with an e-mail to The Associated Press that said: "Jeff Pash was part of an executive team that sold the networks a \$4 billion ticket to a game they knew wouldn't be played. The only thing they've been committed to is a lockout."

That is a reference to a court ruling last week, when the federal judge overseeing NFL labor matters sided with the players in their case accusing owners of improperly negotiating TV deals to prepare for a lockout.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith went back to the mediator's office to respond to Pash himself.

"We have been committed to this process. But for anyone to stand and turn to the American people and say they question that? Look, I understand that there's probably some things Jeff Pash just has to say, but this is the truth: We know that as early as March of 2009 ... the National Football League engaged in a strategy to get \$4 billion of television money ... even if the games weren't played."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello tweeted: "When is union going to respond to our 150 pages of draft CBA provisions that they received eight days ago." □



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NBA Roundup

Hornets stun Mavericks, 110-108, with big finish

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jarrett Jack hit three free throws to complete an unlikely 8-0 New Orleans run inside the final 1:13, as the Hornets completed a stunning late 110-108 win over Dallas Mavericks in the NBA on Wednesday.

The Hornets trailed 92-85, then Marco Belinelli hit a 3 and Emeka Okafor put back Belinelli's missed reverse layup.

Dallas' Tyson Chandler, who had 16 points and 13 rebounds in his return from a sprained ankle, missed two free throws with 17 seconds to go, leaving the game up for grabs.

Jason Kidd fouled Jack on a 3-point attempt, setting up Jack's decisive free throws

with 8.4 seconds left. Jack finished with 21 points.

Dallas still had one more chance to win it, but for the second time in New Orleans this season, Dirk Nowitzki was unable to convert.

Spurs 111, Pistons 104

In San Antonio, the hosts bounced back from a humbling loss by beating Detroit. Tony Parker scored 23 points and Tim Duncan — who matched a career low with two points in a blowout loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday — finished with 15 points and 12 rebounds in 31 minutes.

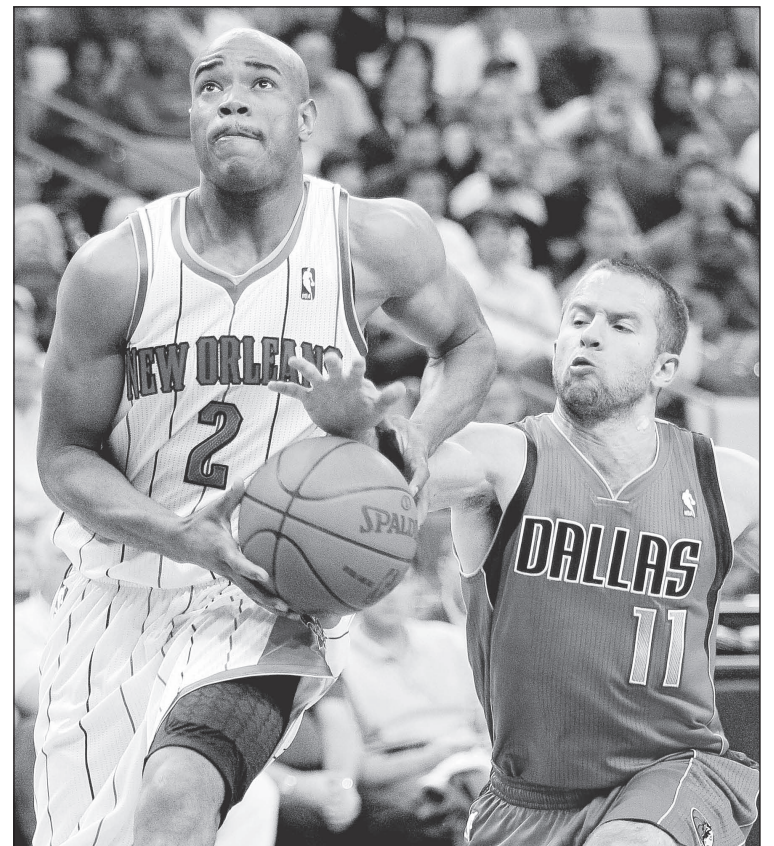
Richard Hamilton led the Pistons with 20 points off the bench.

The Spurs hit their first 14 shots and finished with a season-high 40 points in the first quarter to take a 14-point lead. San Antonio scored just 37 points in the first half in Sunday's loss.

Thunder 110, 76ers 105, OT
In Philadelphia, Kevin Durant had 34 points and 16 rebounds to lead Oklahoma City over Philadelphia.

Russell Westbrook added 27 points and 12 assists for the Thunder.

Durant erased a five-point deficit with a minute left in regulation, hitting a runner and a 3-pointer that sent the game into overtime. The Sixers scored only two baskets in the extra 5 minutes.



New Orleans Hornets point guard Jarrett Jack (2) goes up for a shot as Dallas Mavericks guard Jose Juan Barea, of Puerto Rico, attempts to strip the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, March 9, 2011. Jack contributed 21 points to New Orleans' 93-92 win over Dallas.

Associated Press

Alaska village welcomes Iditarod mushers

MARY PEMBERTON

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Trent Herbst from Idaho led the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race when he was the first musher to reach the checkpoint in the ghost town of Iditarod on Thursday.

However, he has not yet completed a mandatory 24-hour rest, whereas other front-runners, including four-time defending champion Lance Mackey and four-time champion Martin Buser had satisfied that race requirement.

Also into Iditarod, about 534 miles from Anchorage, were Kelley Griffin, Buser, Hugh Neff, Cim Smyth and Mackey. Mitch Seavey, the 2004 champion, was withdrawn on Thursday after severely injuring his hand while cutting open a bale of straw at the Ophir checkpoint. Six other mushers from the original field of 62 have scratched.

A handful of dog teams were exhibiting symptoms of kennel cough. Kennel cough was a highly contagious upper respiratory condition caused by exposure to a virus. Signs of infection — including a dry, hacking cough and sneezing — usually show up two to



Willow, AK Iditarod musher Karin Hendrickson's swing dog Aberdeen and leader Chase keep an eye on things at the Takotna checkpoint during the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Wednesday, afternoon March 9, 2011.

four days after exposure and can last up to 10 days.

The affected dogs are being treated with antibiotics, and mushers are making sure their

dog teams are eating well and getting rest, chief race veterinarian Stuart Nelson said. Nelson would not say which teams were affected. □

Associated Press

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Hamm: Too early to judge Beckham effect in U.S.

PAUL LOGOTHETIS
AP Sports Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Mia Hamm says it is too early to judge how much influence David Beckham has had on the football scene in the United States, mainly because of the midfielder's desire to keep playing for England. Beckham signed a five-year, \$32.5 million contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy in 2007. The move to Major League Soccer was expected to increase the game's appeal to a sports-viewing public generally more enamored with American football and baseball. Hamm tells The Associated Press that change has come "to some degree" but "it's still evolving" because the 35-year-old Beckham is still playing in the US. □

Calls for football to get share of betting profits

NYON, Switzerland (AP) — A leading European football body has called on lawmakers to pass legislation forcing betting operators to share revenues with the sport.

A strategy council with links to UEFA wants football to get a “fair financial return” to address its concern with “growing unauthorized commercial use of football competitions for betting purposes.” The council wants clubs and competition organizers to be compensated for sharing their intellectual property rights with the betting industry, saying the extra money is “essential” to fund grass-roots football and tackle match-fixing. □

Bokko upsets Davis to win 1,500 world title

INZELL, Germany (AP) — Havarð Bokko of Norway upset defending champion Shani Davis of the United States to win the 1,500-meter title at the single-distance speedskating world championships on Thursday. Bokko clipped Davis by .05 seconds after covering the distance in 1 minute, 45.04 seconds. Lucas Makowsky of Canada was third in 1:45.22. There was also an upset in the women's 3,000, where Ireen Wust of the Netherlands beat two-time Olympic champion Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic. Wust won in 4:1.56 seconds to edge Sablikova, who clocked 4:02.07. Stephanie Beckert of Germany took the bronze at 4:04.28. □

FIJ opens case against apparatus supplier

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Gymnastics Federation has opened a disciplinary case against a supplier of trampolines for last year's world championships, saying the equipment was substandard.

FIG says potential sanctions against French company Gymnova would not affect its contract to supply trampolines and other gymnastics equipment to organizers of the 2012 London Olympics. The governing body says Marseille-based Gymnova "delivered trampolines of a poor quality" to the worlds held last November in Metz, France. □

Riesch, Vonn in race for World Cup overall title



Lindsey Vonn, left, of the United States, congratulates third placed Maria Riesch, of Germany, after placing second in an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-combined race, to top the discipline standings and clinch final victory, in Tarvisio, Italy, Friday, March 4, 2011.

Associated Press

KAREL JANICEK
Associated Press
SPINDLERUV MLYN, Czech Republic (AP) — Lindsey Vonn and Maria Riesch are competing for more points in the race for the overall World Cup title this weekend. Riesch holds a 96-point lead in the overall standings ahead of Vonn, the three-time defending champion. The friends and rivals will compete in the giant slalom on Friday, followed by the slalom on Saturday.

After finishing second to Vonn for the last two seasons, Riesch believes this is her time with six races remaining. "I feel in good form and I am going to try everything I can to reach my big goal — the overall title," Riesch said. But after being forced to skip the second half of last month's world championships to recover from concussion, Vonn showed a return to form last week in Tarvisio, Italy. There, the American clinched the super-G, super-combined and downhill discipline titles on successive days. "I'm going to still keep fighting until the very last race," she said. "I feel fresh still. I feel like I have a lot of energy and this is where you have to kick in

the sixth gear and really show your cards, show how much you trained in the summer and I hope I'm ready for the challenge."

Despite success in the speed races, Vonn has been struggling this season in technical events. She must improve in those races to have a chance for the overall title, because four of the final six races involve giant slalom and slalom.

Vonn managed to finish only two slaloms this season, in November in Levi, Finland, and Aspen, Colorado. She's 20th in the discipline standings.

She hasn't reached the podium in giant slalom and is 13th in the standings.

Riesch has been collecting points in all disciplines this season and is third in the slalom standings after winning on Jan. 11 in Austria. She is sixth in the giant slalom's standings.

"The gap (over Vonn) is not that big anymore, but now we have a couple of technical races and I am looking forward to them," Riesch said. Vonn acknowledged, "Maria's best events are giant slalom and slalom. Actually, every event is her best event, it's been tough this year."

U.S. women's coach Alex Hoedlmoser said last weekend's results were a great confidence boost for Vonn and the rest of the U.S. team.

"For Lindsey especially, winning three globes in three days was definitely tremendous and it's definitely a confidence boost," Hoedlmoser said.

He said Vonn has been training hard on the technical events, and proved she could ski fast in the slalom part of the super-G in Tarvisio.

"That was definitely really good for my self-confidence," Vonn said.

A lack of confidence in the slalom events was partly to blame for poor results, Hoedlmoser suggested, who added Vonn was ready to "attack full in every race."

"There's no more tactics really involved, it's going to be all out."

"There's no reason to hold back," Vonn said, "I have to really give it everything I have and hope that I can keep either the same distance or try to make ground on her."

"I'm in a good place right now. I have a good feeling mentally."

World champion Marlies Schild will be the one to beat this weekend in the slalom. Schild has won five slaloms this season and tops the discipline standings with 500 points, followed by Finland's Tanja Poutiainen with 460. Riesch had 420 in third.

In the giant slalom, Tessa Worley of France leads with 358 points, ahead of Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany with 335.

The women's circuit's next stop is the World Cup finals from March 16-20 in Lenzerheide, Switzerland. □



As competitors pop up, iPad keeps price advantage

PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The new iPad model hitting stores Friday comes with several improvements over the original version but the same price tag, hobbling efforts by rivals at breaking Apple Inc.'s hold on the emerging market for tablet computers.

Competitors such as Motorola Mobility Holdings Inc. can't seem to match the iPad's starting price of \$499. Tablets that are comparable to the iPad in features cost hundreds of dollars more, while cheaper tablets are inferior to the iPad in quality.

This is highly unusual in the gadget business, where early products, such as the first Blu-ray players or digital cameras, are expensive. Competition then gradually brings prices down. With the iPad, the re-

verse is happening.

It looks as if this is a result of Apple's strategy. The company appears to have chosen, right from the start, to make less of a profit from its iPads than it does from iPods and iPhones. The move is particularly odd for a company that isn't known for cheap products.

Apple's profit margin on the \$499 entry-level iPad model is about 25 percent, according to an estimate by Toni Sacconaghi at Bernstein Research.

By contrast, the company's profit margin for all products, before corporate overhead, was 38.5 percent in the most recent quarter. He and other analysts estimate the margin for the iPhone 4 is 50 percent to 60 percent. (Apple charges about \$600 for it, though it's cheaper in stores because wireless carriers subsidize it.)

AOL to cut 900 jobs

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — AOL said Thursday it will slash 900 jobs worldwide, or nearly 20 percent of its work force, partly to eliminate overlap that stems from its recent purchase of The Huffington Post. About 200 of the cuts are from AOL's content and technology departments in the U.S. The remaining 700 are at AOL's offices in India, which mainly provides back-office support to the U.S. But AOL spokesman Graham James said 300 of those will move to other companies that are taking over support functions.

Thursday's cuts leave AOL with 3,500 employees in the U.S. and about 500 overseas. The total work force is a fifth of what the company had at its peak in 2004, when its staff numbered more than 20,000.

AOL was once the king of dial-up online access known for its ubiquitous CD-ROMs and "You've got mail" greeting in its inboxes. These days, it has been struggling to reinvent itself as a company focused on advertising and content. AOL paid \$315 million for The Huffington Post as part of its efforts to become a go-to source for news and other content.

That deal closed Monday. Armstrong said AOL will hire this year and will try to have more full-time journalists in its ranks to rely less on freelancers. He said about half the staff now is in content-producing roles, and he wants to increase that to 70 percent.

Shares of AOL gained 1 cent to \$19.35 in morning trading Thursday. □



Tim Armstrong, Chairman and CEO of AOL, talks at a media summit, Thursday, March 10, 2011 in New York.

Associated Press



The Apple iPad 2 is shown in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

Associated Press

Apple is telling investors to expect overall margins to keep declining, meaning competitors can't expect much of a reprieve. There are cheaper tablet computers available, but they don't perform as well. They have poor screens, poor touch sensitivity and poor software, and they are slow. For example, Archos sells a tablet that's roughly iPad-sized for \$370. Reviewers at CNET and Laptop Magazine say its screen washes out unless you're right in front of it, and it has problems sensing touch. A tablet that can match the iPad 2 in quality and features costs much more. For example, Motorola's Xoom sells

for \$800, or \$600 if the buyer agrees to a two-year data service contract with Verizon Wireless. The iPad 2 with the same amount of memory — 32 gigabytes — and cellular data capability on AT&T's or Verizon's network costs \$729, no contract required.

The Galaxy Tab from Samsung Electronics Co. is half the size of the iPad, yet costs \$500. And that price is only available if the buyer pays an activation fee and signs up for at least one month of data service from Verizon, at a minimum total cost of \$55. The tablet can be had for as little as \$300, but that requires two years of data service, or hun-

dreds of dollars in fees.

Some 100 different models of tablet computers have already gone on sale or are on the way. Gartner Inc. projects that 65 million tablets will be sold worldwide this year, and analysts expect the bulk of them will be iPads. Apple sold 15 million of the original iPad in its first nine months on sale. Research firm IDC says three-quarters of all tablets sold in the last three months of 2010 were iPads. J.P. Morgan analyst Mark Moskowitz believes there's a "bubble" building in tablets, with supply potentially outstripping demand by 36 percent this year.

That could put additional pressure on tablet prices, though Moskowitz believes manufacturers will be hurt less than suppliers of components, which are able to command higher prices now because tablet makers are eager to secure displays and other parts. Samsung, Motorola and other tablet makers will have to rely on other products they have to cushion the blow.

Analysts say Apple has a couple of advantages that let it sell an iPad profitably at a price that would put another manufacturer at break-even, or at a loss. Apple sells about a third of iPads in its own stores and from its website. By cutting out the middleman, Apple is able to keep more of the slim profit margin for itself. □

YouTube, universities launch new media program

NEW YORK (AP) — YouTube is partnering with universities to launch a new media program series for aspiring digital filmmakers. The video-sharing website announced Thursday it would launch the YouTube Creator Institute with the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and Columbia College Chicago. It says the schools will offer on-campus and online educational courses to its users so they can "hone their digital media skills and accelerate their YouTube careers." Course work will range from cinematography to social media strategy. Classes begin in May. Inaugural classes at USC and CCC will have 10 students each. Applicants must be U.S. citizens at least 18 years old. YouTube is owned by Mountain View, California-based Internet search leader Google Inc. □

Starbucks, Green Mountain in single-cup deal



In this Oct. 7, 2010, file photo, a Green Mountain Coffee single-serving brewing cup is seen in a Keurig machine in Montpelier, Vt.

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Starbucks Corp. and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. have reached a deal that will bring single-cup Starbucks coffee and Tazo tea pods to Keurig users. Starbucks has been looking to beef up its presence in the fast-growing single-cup coffee market and Green Mountain is considered one of its leaders. Rumors swirled last month that the two were in potential partnership talks. The agreement announced Thursday between the Seattle coffee chain and the single-serve coffee brew maker provides for the manufacturing, marketing, distribution and sale of the pods for Green Mountain's Keurig single-cup brewing system. Terms were not disclosed. Green Mountain's stock jumped \$3.96, or 9.1 percent, to \$47.60 in premarket trading. The shares have traded between \$21.83 and \$47.81 over the past year. The companies plan to make the K-Cup single-cup pods available at food, drug, mass, club, specialty and department store retailers in the U.S. and Canada starting in the fall. Starbucks and Green Mountain are also looking to offer Starbucks K-Cup pods and Keurig machines at Starbucks stores and to make the Starbucks pods available through Green Mountain's web sites and Starbucks' web site beginning next year. □



Office workers leave the headquarters of Sony Corp. in Tokyo Thursday, March 10, 2011. Sony said Thursday it will reorganize its main electronics businesses and promote the star of its gaming operations to lead a new consumer products division.

Associated Press

Japan's Sony Corporation to reorganize key businesses

JAY ALABASTER

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Sony Corp. said Thursday it will reorganize its main electronics businesses and promote the star of its gaming operations to lead a new consumer products division. The massive new consumer group will be led by Kazuo Hirai, a rising executive who has overseen a recovery in Sony's video game business. The move likely sets the stage for him to one day take over for current CEO Howard Stringer. The board will be watching Hirai's performance, Stringer said. But he denied he was stepping down any time soon to make way for a new chief executive. "We haven't made up our mind on who our next president or CEO will be," he told reporters at Tokyo headquarters, while praising Hirai as loyal and charming. The iconic company said it will combine the vast array of products that have made it famous with consumers — including TVs, video games, PCs and mobile phones — into the group. A second main division will be formed with the company's digital components and business-facing products. Tokyo-based Sony remains a household brand name, but has lost much of the glow from years past, when products like its Walkman portable music players transformed the electronics industry. It is currently struggling against flashier rivals like Apple Inc. and behemoth competitors like Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Profits have grown in the gaming division under Hirai, with its core PlayStation 3 home console expected to sell 15 million units for the year through March, up from 13 million the previous year. The company has also generated buzz among gaming aficionados with the recent announcement of a successor to its PlayStation Portable, due to go on sale late this year. Codenamed "NGP," for next-generation portable, it promises flashier graphics on a large screen. But its core television business is racking up its sixth year of red ink, as it played catchup in flat-panel TVs to rivals. Stringer, a Welsh-born American, who became the first non-Japanese to head Sony in 2005, said his management team has been trying to make Sony profitable, and the latest move was part of that turnaround effort. "This is the last stage in the integration," he said. Sony is striving to find a formula for combining such consumer products with its large music and movie holdings, which include the recent movie "The Social Network," about Facebook, and Michael Jackson's "Michael." In its earnings announcement last month, Sony said that quarterly profit dropped from a year earlier, pulled down by the strong yen and falling TV prices. □



Companies amass cash, stocks lift household wealth



In this Feb. 28, 2011 photo, a customer looks at two new 2011 Dodge Chargers at a dealership in Burlingame, Calif.

Associated Press

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' wealth grew 3.8 percent in the final three months of 2010, boosted by gains in stock portfolios. Companies, meanwhile, added to their cash stockpiles, which reached their highest point in more than a half-century. Household net worth rose to \$56.8 trillion in the October-December quarter, even though the value of real-estate holdings fell 1.6 percent, the Federal Reserve said Thursday. Last

quarter's gain exceeded the 2.6 percent increase in net worth in the July-September period. So far this year, stocks have risen more than 3 percent. Further gains in wealth could lead Americans — especially higher-income consumers — to spend more, strengthening the economy. Net worth is the value of assets such as homes, checking accounts and investments, minus debts like mortgages and credit cards. It's now risen for two straight quarters after shrinking last spring. Americans' net worth is well above the bottom hit during the

recession: \$49 trillion in the January-March quarter of 2009. Still, it would have to rise an additional 16 percent to reach its pre-recession peak of \$66 trillion. Companies are still holding tight to their cash. Their cash piles grew to \$1.89 trillion last quarter. That's the most on quarterly records dating to 1952. Economists predict that companies will use more of their cash this year to make capital investments and boost hiring. In the April-June quarter, net worth posted its first decline since 2009, when Europe's debt

crisis bred turmoil on Wall Street. Since then, stock gains have continued to rebuild Americans' wealth. The value of households' stock portfolios reached \$8.5 trillion in the final three months of 2010. That was a 12.3 percent increase from the prior three months. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, a broad gauge of the market's performance, surged 10.2 percent in the October-December quarter. It was the second straight quarter of double-digit gains. The S&P index soared 22 percent in the second half of last year. Stock values as measured by the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index rose \$1.6 trillion in value in the final quarter of 2010 and an additional \$840 billion so far in 2011. About \$16.3 trillion is now invested in U.S. stocks. About 91 percent of Americans who have company-sponsored retirement savings plans now have more money in their accounts than at the market top in October 2007, according to estimates by Jack VanDerhei of the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington. That percentage would be considerably lower without factoring in workers' continued contributions. □

Radiodeal: Cumulus to buy Citadel Broadcasting

ATLANTA (AP) — Cumulus Media Inc. is buying Citadel Broadcasting Corp. in a \$1.7 billion deal that would unite two of the country's largest radio station owners. Atlanta-based Cumulus would own 572 radio stations across about 120 U.S. markets once the deal announced Thursday closes. It will remain the No. 2 radio station owner in the U.S. behind Clear Channel, which owns more than 800 stations. The deal represents a bet that the radio advertising market will continue rebounding. Like other media, radio broadcasters were hard hit in 2008 and 2009 as the recession curtailed the ad spending that generates most of their revenue. An advertising shift to the Internet also siphoned money away from radio stations.

But the outlook has been improving modestly as the recovering economy has encouraged advertisers to increase their marketing budgets. Cumulus said Thursday it is paying \$37 per share in cash and stock for Citadel, which owns 225 radio stations in more than 50 markets. Las Vegas-based Citadel had previously rejected a \$31 a share offer from Cumulus. Cumulus said the enterprise value of the deal, including assumed debt, is about \$2.4 billion. The company said it has obtained equity financing commitments for up to \$500 million from Crestview Partners and Macquarie Capital. Cumulus also received debt financing commitments of about \$3 billion from a group of banks.

The \$1.7 billion value is based on Citadel's 46.8 million outstanding shares. Citadel said there is \$1.4 billion of cash available for the deal, along with about 151 million Cumulus Class A shares. If all Citadel shareholders choose to receive cash, then each Citadel share would be prorated to \$30.00 in cash and 1.613 shares of Cumulus. Citadel said this implies a total value of \$38.23 per share, based on Cumulus' closing stock price on Wednesday. If all shareholders decide to get shares instead, then the implied value would be \$39.45 on the same basis. The deal must still be approved by Citadel shareholders and regulators. It is expected to close by the end of this year. □



In this March 13, 2010 photo provided by General Motors Co. (then) Vice Chairman and CFO Chris Liddell attends the New York International Auto Show in New York.

Associated Press

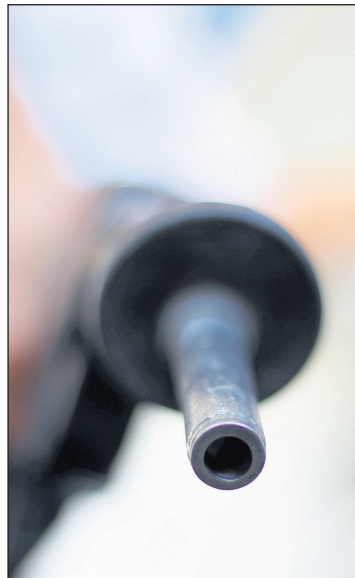
General Motors chief financial officer resigns unexpectedly

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The chief financial officer of General Motors Co., who brought the company through a successful public stock offering and was once considered a candidate for CEO, is resigning as of April 1. In a surprise announcement Thursday, GM said that Chris Liddell, 52, will be replaced by Treasurer Dan Ammann. Liddell has been on the job for just 14 months. During a hastily arranged conference call with reporters, Liddell said he had no job lined up, but doesn't want to be a chief financial officer any longer. He said he had achieved his goals of pulling off GM's IPO, fixing its accounting problems and getting the company back on sound financial footing. The move is another in a series of management changes that started soon after GM emerged from bankruptcy protection in July of 2009. The company has had four CEOs in less than two years, and it recently changed its top sales, marketing, product development and engineering executives. Under Liddell, GM posted four straight profitable quarters and began to repair accounting troubles that had plagued it for years. The former Microsoft CFO joined GM in January 2010 with a reputation as a problem solver. At the time, Liddell said he was leaving Microsoft with an eye on taking a higher position. When former GM CEO Ed Whitacre stepped aside last year, GM picked board member Dan Akerson to replace him, leading to speculation that Liddell was unhappy about being passed over. But Liddell denied that he was leaving because he didn't get the CEO job, saying he was solely focused on the public stock offering at the time Whitacre left. "I didn't have any expectations other than that, and I didn't when I joined the company," he said. Shares of GM fell 68 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$31.57 in morning trading Thursday. Akerson said Liddell was a major contributor to GM during a pivotal time in the company's history. "He guided the company's IPO process and established a good financial foundation for the future," he said. Liddell replaced Ray Young, who was transferred to GM's operations in China. GM had been plagued with financial reporting problems heading into and emerging from bankruptcy protection. Going into its IPO last year, the company said weaknesses in its financial controls meant many of its numbers could not be considered reliable. □

Oil falls as economists warn of high prices



Gas station worker Bill Skinner poses holding a gas nozzle Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in San Diego.

Associated Press

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices tumbled nearly 3 percent Thursday before recovering somewhat on reports that Saudi police opened fire at a rally in the eastern part of the country. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate for April delivery fell below \$101 on weak economic news from the U.S. and China, but rallied back after the report from Saudi Arabia to settle down \$1.68 at \$102.70 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil fell as low as \$100.62 Thursday morning, the lowest price in a week. The reaction to the Saudi development shows how sensitive the market is at the moment to news from the Middle East. Oil prices soared above \$100 per barrel last week as an uprising in Libya essentially shut down the country's exports. Earlier in the day, economists were warning that the recent surge in fuel prices will eventually slow economic growth. The U.S. is consuming more gasoline than a year ago, even though the price has jumped 50 cents per gallon in just three months. But consultants who track spending on gasoline say Americans may finally be pulling back. □

In France

Galliano's complainant doubts he's anti-Semitic



John Galliano

PARIS — The man whose complaint against John Galliano led to his arrest and firing from Christian Dior said in an interview published on that he doubts the celebrated fashion designer is anti-Semitic.

Philippe, as he was identified in *Le Parisien*, said he was unaware at the time that it was the celebrated British couturier who made alleged racist and anti-Jewish remarks at him and a female friend at a Paris cafe.

We were having a beer when a man who I didn't know and didn't recognize sat down next to us explaining that it appeared that Galliano had been drinking.

Right away he started to attack us by saying to my friend: 'Your voice irritates me, you're talking too loud'. Then everything started happening. It went on for 45 minutes. He wanted to humiliate us.

Asked to confirm if anti-Semitic remarks had been uttered, Philippe replied: "Yes, but today, I am convinced that his words overtook his mind. I do not believe he is racist or anti-Semitic." Since all this happened, I've learned about his work, that he put diversity at the forefront and mixed cultures in his shows.

I believe, above all, that he is very ill and that, for him, it was a provocation. □

Sara Evans 'Stronger'

By CHRIS TALBOTT

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Sara Evans says she's never one to make an autobiographical album. Yet you can't blame listeners for reading between the lines on her latest single, "A Little Bit Stronger."

It deals with a woman slowly getting over a busted relationship and emerging stronger for the ordeal a lot like what has happened to Evans over the last five years.

She went through a very public divorce that forced her to pull out of "Dancing with the Stars" in 2006. Suddenly a single mom, she wasn't sure what her future would hold. How would she continue her



Country music artist

Sara Evans

career with three children to raise mostly alone?

Sounds just like the song, doesn't it? □

Against Warner Bros.

Sheen files \$100 million lawsuit



Charlie Sheen

By ANTHONY

MCCARTNEY

Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Charlie Sheen brought his verbal war against Warner Bros. and the executive producer of "Two and a Half Men" to the courtroom filing a \$100 million lawsuit seeking to recoup his salary and wages for the show's crew.

The breach of contract lawsuit alleges production was halted on the CBS sitcom to punish Sheen for recent behavior that has included two hospitalizations and, in recent weeks, a series of interviews where he has

attacked executive producer Chuck Lorre.

The filing comes four days after Sheen was fired from "Two and a Half Men," leaving the top-rated sitcom's future in doubt.

Sheen's lawsuit alleges that Warner Bros. bowed to Lorre's desire to punish Sheen, and that the producer and studio conspired to blame the actor for causing production to stop. The suit also was filed on behalf of the sitcom's crew, which was put out of work.

Warner Bros. declined to comment on the suit. Lorre's attorney, Howard Weitzman, did not immediately return

a phone message seeking comment.

On top of Sheen's \$100 million request for damages, the 45-year-old actor is seeking punitive damages.

The complaint states that Sheen's most recent contract, executed last May, entitles him to be paid whether or not the series films for up to 24 episodes per season through late 2011. Sheen's lawsuit states that he attempted to return to the series in mid-February, but was told that Lorre had not prepared production scripts for the season's remaining episodes, which was later shortened.

The lawsuit includes several references to Lorre's ego and claims the veteran television producer of shows such as "Roseanne" and "The Big Bang Theory" has trouble managing top-tier actors.

Sheen's firing had followed a rare, raging public battle between a Hollywood star and those who employ him, with Sheen claiming the right to live as he pleased — including the acknowledged use of illegal drugs, although he's said he is currently clean — as long as he showed up sober and ready to work. □

In France

Miu Miu's modernist glamour

Godfrey Deeny

Associated Press

Paris — The final major show on the four-week and four-city fall 2011 fashion circuit was Miu Miu in Paris on Wednesday, March 9, and while it obviously referenced '40s glamour, it was the most modern collection of all in terms of silhouette and line.

Though designer Miuccia Prada is arguably better known for her innovative use of fabrics, her unerring sense of what is new and her inspired meeting of art and fashion, this was her showing off her skill at cutting and inventing new shapes.

That much was clear from the opening, which consisted of superlatively well-shaped coats and jackets, offered with

large heroic shoulders, offset large buttons and micro pointy collars. Adding to the novelty were large romantic bows and twisted Obi belts, making every look classy yet audacious. Frequently the coats were shown without any skirts, adding edge and allure. Also resplendent were the silk dresses cut at the knee, embroidered with images of daisies, daffodils or swallows, all of them somehow very French, albeit designed by a quintessentially Italian creator.

However, not every look worked. A few gathered tops in wool were rather frumpy and sometimes the cut was just too bulky. However, no Miu Miu show lacks appetizing accessories, and this was no exception. A favorite was a



Miu Miu fashion show
runway model

brass trimmed curvilinear bag made in felt - the fabric of the season for handbags - that had great class. □

In New York

Clapton guitar auction raises US \$2.15 million



Guitars belonging to British music icon Eric Clapton

NEW YORK – British rock star Eric Clapton raised \$2.15 million at a New York auction of 75 guitars and 55 amplifiers on Wednesday, more than triple the pre-sale expectations, auctioneers Bonhams said on Thursday.

The proceeds from the sale at which every lot found a buyer will go to the 65-year-old guitar legend's Crossroads Center drug and alcohol treatment facility in the Caribbean.

The auction total without the buyer's premium was around \$1.8 million, and the sale also included instruments donated by Clapton's musician friends Jeff Beck, J.J. Cale and Joe Bonamassa. Among the top lots was a 1948 Gibson L-5P, which had been expected to fetch \$20-30,000 but raised \$82,960. A 2005 Zemaitis S22BP 3S, estimated at \$12-18,000, sold for \$75,640.

The top amp of the sale was a pair of 1997 Fender Twin Amps, estimated at \$9-12,000, which sold for \$42,700.

"Eric Clapton inspires an ever-expanding fan base, many of whom made the journey to Bonhams in New York over the past few days and joined us for this remarkable auction," said Jon Baddeley, worldwide head of collectables at Bonhams.

"We were delighted to play our part in raising funds for The Crossroads Center, a charity with a noble mission and a cause that remains very close to Eric's heart."

Clapton, who did not attend the auction as he and his band were scheduled to perform in LA, is considered one of the greatest guitarists in rock history, and is recognized as a solo artist and for his collaborations with The Yardbirds and Cream. □

Prince wants 'informal' trip Down Under



Prince William

SYDNEY – Prince William wants to keep his visit to disaster-stricken areas of New Zealand and Australia later this month as informal as possible, a top official said. He is due to visit earthquake-devastated New Zealand on March 17 and 18, then travel to areas of Australia hit by

a cyclone and floods from March 19 to 21, including Queensland state.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh said the prince wanted an opportunity "to really sit down and talk with some of the people that have been directly affected".

He wants to be as informal as is reasonable. I don't think that's very easy when you're the prince but he does want an opportunity to be pretty informal and get close to people." Prince William's itinerary is yet to be finalized but he is also expected to visit communities in southeastern Australia

In California

Lohan rejects plea offer in theft case

By ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – Lindsay Lohan rejected a plea agreement offered by prosecutors that included

a guaranteed return to jail in a case involving the theft of a \$2,500 necklace.

The "Mean Girls" actress appeared in a courtroom and told a judge she agreed to delaying her case until an April 22 preliminary hearing, when prosecutors will present evidence against her.

It was all Lohan said during the brief proceeding in Los Angeles.

Her decision came after Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz offered the actress another opportunity to resolve the case.

He said he had laid out to Lohan's lawyer how he would sentence Lohan if she pleaded guilty or no contest to the theft of the necklace, and said she could accept his offer at a hearing on March 25.

The exact terms of the proposed plea deal by prosecutors and the judge's offer were not disclosed.

Schwartz previously told Lohan he would sentence her to jail if she accepted the government's plea deal but did not indicate how much time he would impose.

If eventually convicted, the actress could be sentenced to up to three years in state



Lindsay Lohan

prison.

Lohan, 24, who has pleaded not guilty, arrived in court a few minutes late wearing a dark grayish brown dress and hurriedly walked into the hearing with her mother.

Lohan was on probation in January when a Venice jewelry store accused her of taking

the necklace that a security video showed she was wearing when she left the shop.

The preliminary hearing would have a dual purpose, with another judge determining if there is enough evidence for Lohan to stand trial on the grand theft charge and whether she violated the terms of her probation in a 2007 drunken driving case.

If the judge decides she was in violation of probation, Lohan could be immediately sent to jail.

Lohan's return to court came days after surveillance footage was aired of her trying on necklaces at Kamofie & Co., which reported the necklace stolen on Jan. 22. The necklace was eventually given by a Lohan associate to police, who had already obtained a search warrant for the Venice home of the actress. □

'Wire' actress among 60 arrested in Md. drug raid

By SARAH BRUMFIELD
Associated Press

BALTIMORE – An actress who appeared on the HBO series "The Wire" was among more than 60 people arrested in an early morning drug raid in the Baltimore area, authorities said. Felicia "Snoop" Pearson, 30, who played a killer of the same name on the hit television series, is among the dozens arrested in the raids carried out by Drug Enforcement Administration agents, Baltimore police and others, police said. Federal and local officials planned to announce the prosecution of a large Baltimore drug gang at a news conference afternoon. Local television showed video of Pearson being led by DEA agents from an apartment building downtown to a waiting police van. Police declined to say what charges she faces.

The raids were the result of a seven-month investigation of a heroin, cocaine and marijuana operation that spread from the east side of the city into the west and northwest and



Felicia "Snoop" Pearson

into the county, DEA Special Agent Edward Marcinko said. Many of those arrested will face conspiracy charges.

"The Wire," which ran from 2002 to 2008, was filmed in Baltimore and put a spotlight on the city's struggle with poverty and drug violence through the stories of the city's police, drug organizations, schools and politicians. The character Snoop knocks off several people for the Stanfield drug gang.

This is not Pearson's first brush with the law. She was convicted of second-degree murder in a slaying committed when she was 14. She served five years of an eight-year sentence and was released in 2000. □



Mom & dad kid selves over 'Joy of Parenting'

Are the long nights and financial burdens of parenting really worth the emotional benefits? New research is saying no: When confronted with the real economic costs of having children, most parents will exaggerate their happiness to validate their choice to have children.

Many people believe that to be truly fulfilled in life, it is necessary to experience the joys of parenthood. Children are considered an essential source of happiness, satisfaction, and pride, Richard Eibach and Steven Mock of the University of Waterloo, wrote of their study in the March 2 issue of the journal *Psychological Science*. □

Tiny diamonds show promise against tough cancers

By Kerry Sheridan
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — US researchers said they have found a way to attack late-stage breast and liver cancer tumors by attaching a potent chemotherapy drug to tiny carbon particles known as nanodiamonds.

The technique was tested in mice and showed that nanodiamonds helped the drug, doxorubicin, get inside the normally chemo-resistant tumor and shrink it, said the study published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Without the nanodiamonds, the drug was either rejected by the body and failed to work on the tumor, or in higher doses it was too powerful for the patient to survive.

The research shows promise for possible use in humans because chemotherapy drug resistance causes treatment



Prof. Dean Ho

to fail in 90 percent of cancers that have spread inside the body, known as metastatic cancer. What is most interesting from this study is when we took an even higher dose of the drug, that dose was so toxic that the animals all died. They didn't even last long enough to finish the study, said lead author Dean Ho of Northwestern University.

Ho said he became interested in using carbon particles to deliver drugs more than three

years ago, and was attracted to nanodiamonds because they have been shown in automotive uses to work well with water, a key requirement in medical uses, too.

Nanodiamonds are typically formed in explosions, such as in coal mining or oil refinery operations, and are even thought to result from meteorite landings.

So instead of throwing it out, taking this by product and simply processing it with things like acid washing, milling, sonification, it can yield very uniform particles of between two and eight nanometers in diameter.

Ho said it would likely be a few years before the thera-

py may be available on the market, and that researchers would first look at how the technique works in larger animals before human clinical trials can start.

Nanodiamonds possess numerous hallmarks of an ideal drug delivery system and are promising platforms for advancing cancer therapy, said co-author Edward Chow, a postdoctoral fellow with the GW Hooper Foundation, which helped fund the research, and the University of California, San Francisco.

Other funding for the study came from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the American Cancer Institute. □

Americans suffer more disease than British

WASHINGTON— The United States spends twice as much per capita each year on health care as Britain but sees higher rates of nearly every chronic disease, even among children, said a study out.

Despite the cash outflow, Americans over 50 are in worse health than Britons and have shorter life expectancies. The trend also does not appear to be related to the fact that people in the United States tend to be fatter than the British.

Our findings suggest that body weight is not the driving force behind the observed health differentials between the United States and England and that, if weight plays a role, it is a complicated one, said the study in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

In fact, previous studies have not found any clear evidence for the difference when look-



Harvey Fineberg

ing at health insurance, behaviors, obesity, socioeconomic status or race and ethnicity, leaving researchers puzzled as to why such variations could exist among otherwise similar populations.

A possibility for further investigation could be how residents of the two countries use health care resources differently.

Despite the greater use of health care technology in the United States, Americans receive less preventive health care than their English counterparts. They have fewer physician consultations per year, it said.

The study compared data for people aged 0 to 80 from nationally representative health surveys in Britain and the United States.

Overall, the United States has higher rates of chronic conditions and markers of disease than England. Differences between the two countries are statistically significant for every condition except hypertension, it said.

Chronic conditions included diabetes, asthma, heart attack, stroke, high cholesterol and high C-reactive protein, which can be a general indicator of inflammation and disease.

The US survey reported fewer cigarette smokers and heavy alcohol drinkers than in Britain, but the study cautioned that "respondents tend to underreport substance use in surveys so the rates of smoking and heavy drinking should be interpreted with caution." □



Dr. Diana Greene Foster and group session

Limits on birth control pills may be too costly

By Amy Norton
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Letting women have a year's supply of birth control pills might help prevent more unwanted pregnancies, a new study suggests.

Right now, private and public health insurance plans in the U.S. generally limit how many months' worth of birth control pills can be prescribed at once.

But researchers found that lower-income California women who got a year's supply of the Pill had fewer unplanned pregnancies than women who got only enough packages for one or three months at a time.

For every 1000 women who participated in the study, 10 in the longer-supply group became pregnant within a year, compared to 30 of those who could only get prescriptions for shorter supplies. □

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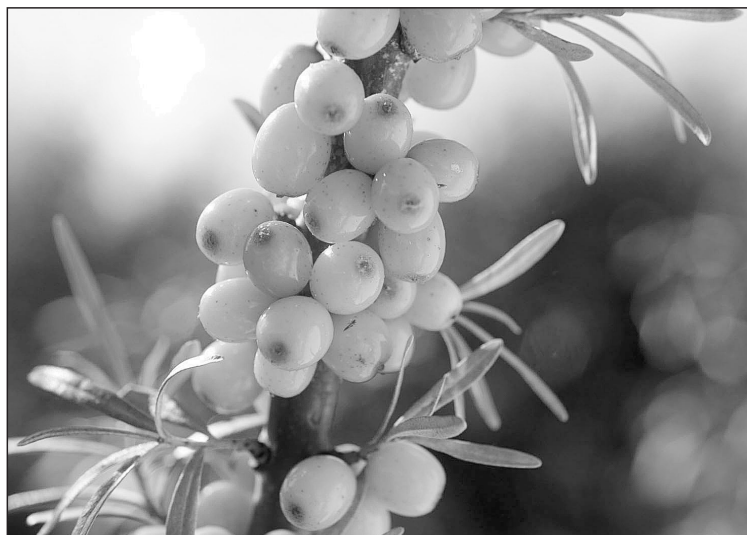
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Beauty brands go outside the lab for ingredients



This undated photo courtesy of Peter McMullin shows sea buckthorn berries. Sea buckthorn berries have been harvested and used locally as a healing ingredient for centuries, McMullin said.

Associated Press

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — They do not quite stumble upon them, but high-tech, skin-care researchers and developers sometimes find new ingredients in unexpected places: under a rock, behind a tree, in the garden. The tips to look outside the laboratory box can come from traditional medicine, alternative medicine, folklore and history. Just in the world of botanicals, where many beauty ingredients emerge, there is so much more exploring to do, says Dr. Marcus McFerren, a dermatologist and ethnobotanist based in Danbury, Connecticut, who recently consulted with Origins on its newest an-

ti-aging, plant-based product called Plantscription. McFerrer says fewer than 5 percent

of plants have been tested, and fewer, of course, are used for cosmetic purposes.

"Sometimes with plants, you'll find something that's good, but you can't use it commercially because it's too rare or too hard to get, so you look for plants with similarities," adds Lieve Declercq, a plant physiologist and molecular biologist for the brand. Dr. Andrew Weil, a leading proponent of integrative medicine, says he has stumbled upon new ingredients in his travels or from his broader network of natural-product enthusiasts. He promotes use of evening-primrose oil, black currant oil and Japanese medicinal mushrooms, for example, in the treatment of the

skin, particularly to reduce inflammation.

"I look for novel ingredients with useful properties that meet specific needs," he says. Sibü Beauty, a Salt Lake City-based family business, basically bet the farm on the sea buckthorn berry from the mountains of India.

Real-estate developers by trade, Peter McMullin had to stir their entrepreneurial spirit when the housing market turned sour, and he put faith in this berry that his father had been told about years ago during a business trip to India. A family friend who studied ayurvedics led the McMullins to the Himalayas and to the berry that is the base for all 10 of its products.

It has been harvested and used locally as a healing ingredient for centuries, McMullin says, and Western companies, including Kiehl's, are having it hand-harvested in the early morning hours 13,000 feet above sea level and bringing it to medicine cabinets in the West.

“At first, the story about sea buckthorn made us roll our eyes, but the ancient uses got our interest. ... you can use the cream made from oils topically, and people took oil internally,” he says. It is a source of the fatty acid omega-7, which macadamia nuts also have, and is used for skin blemishes, dryness, wrinkles, elasticity, as well as fuller, shinier hair. □

Study: Humans, apes, have similar aging patterns



In this undated photo released by the journal Science adult female baboons are seen with infants in Amboseli, Kenya.

Associated Press

RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

patten of aging in humans is not too different from most other primates, such as chimpanzees, monkeys and baboons, new research shows.

A team led by Anne Bronikowski of Iowa State University studied data on primate aging collected over decades around the world and compared it with statistics on modern Americans.

Aging was defined as the increased risk of dying from natural causes while getting older. Some experts have thought that because people have rela-

tively long life spans, humans aged differently from other mammals.

The research team believed that any major difference between humans and primates was most likely to show up with modern people, rather than a hunter-gatherer culture, Bronikowski said in a telephone interview. “And the fact that we don’t find a difference there is more compelling.”

The basic pattern they found is a relatively high risk of dying in infancy, a low risk of death during the juvenile years and then an increased risk of dying as aging progressed. Also, they found that in most cases males don't live as long as females.

“Human patterns are not strikingly different, even though wild primates experience sources of mortality from which humans may be protected,” the authors wrote in a study published online Thurs-

day in the journal Science.

The lone exception to the general pattern was the muriqui monkey in Brazil; males and females have similar life spans.

Unlike other primates, muriqui males do not compete with each other for access to females. Instead, they cooperate with each other, explained co-author Karen Strier, an anthropologist at the University of Wisconsin who has studied muriquis since 1982.

The researchers said the reason males of other species die earlier than females may be a result of the stress of competition. Joseph W. Kemnitz of the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center called the study "an important step" because it provides the first assessment of patterns of aging in large populations of nonhuman primates living in their natural environments. Kemnitz was not part of the research team. □

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EEUU: Senadores piden acelerar TLC Colombia-Panamá

WASHINGTON (AP) - Dos senadores solicitaron el jueves al representante comercial estadounidense Ron Kirk iniciar las discusiones técnicas con la comisión de finanzas del Senado respecto a la implementación de los tratados de libre comercio con Colombia y Panamá, estancados desde hace un lustro.

El presidente de la comisión, el demócrata Max Baucus, y el republicano de mayor rango Orrin Hatch, enviaron una misiva a Kirk en la que sostienen que el inicio de las discusiones técnicas “contribuirá a despejar dudas de nuestros socios comerciales de que el Congreso y el gobierno (estadounidenses) están comprometidos a agilizar estos tratados con celeridad una vez que usted resuelva los temas pendientes”.

La oficina de prensa de la comisión difundió la carta. Durante una audiencia celebrada la víspera, ambos legisladores dijeron a Kirk que sólo aprobarán el tratado de libre comercio con Corea del Sur si está acompañado por los de Colombia y Panamá.

Kirk respondió que la estrategia debe ser culminar primero el tratado de Corea del Sur para luego concentrarse en Colombia y Panamá, los cuales es-

Liberado periodista brasileño en Libia

BRASILIA (AP) - El periodista brasileño Andrei Netto, detenido en Libia cuando cubría la crisis en ese país, fue liberado el jueves tras permanecer preso una semana, informó la publicación para la cual trabaja.

“Estuvo preso por ocho días después de ser capturado por tropas leales al dictador Moamar Gadafi. Netto está bien de salud y debe dejar Libia el viernes”, señaló la publicación.

El diario había perdido contacto con el redactor por teléfono y correo electrónico y recurrió a diversas organizaciones internacionales de socorro para obtener información sobre su paradero.

El gobierno brasileño confirmó el jueves que el reportero de 34 años había sido detenido y se encontraba en la ciudad de Sabratha, a 60 kilómetros de Trípoli.

Netto se desempeña desde 2006 como corresponsal del periódico en París y fue enviado a Libia a cubrir las protestas que han estremecido al gobierno de Gadafi. □



Manifestantes indígenas contra el Tratado de Libre Comercio entre Colombia y Estados Unidos en Ipiales, Colombia, el miércoles 9 de marzo de 2011. (Foto AP/Wilson Prado)

pera resolver este año.

Sin embargo, no detalló cuáles son las objeciones ni ofreció fechas específicas, como habían solicitado los miembros de la comisión legislativa que lo interpelló.

Una delegación colombiana de alto

nivel, conformada por el embajador en Estados Unidos Gabriel Silva; el secretario general de la presidencia, Juan Carlos Pinzón, y la alta consejera para la gestión pública y privada y coordinadora del TLC, Catalina Crane, se reunieron el jueves con funcionarios de

la oficina comercial estadounidense y la Casa Blanca.

Ninguna de las partes ha informado detalles de las reuniones.

El acuerdo con Colombia se ha estancado debido a reservas sobre la cantidad de sindicalistas asesinados. □

Perú lanza logotipo para atraer turismo

LIMA (AP) - Perú lanzó el jueves un logotipo que busca posicionar la imagen del país andino en el mundo para incrementar la visita de turistas, aumentar la inversión extranjera y elevar el comercio exterior.

“Lanzamos la marca Perú para posicionarnos en el extranjero y recoger atributos para el comercio exterior, turismo e inversiones”, dijo el ministro de Comercio Exterior y Turismo,

Eduardo Ferreyros, en conferencia de prensa.

El logotipo que usarán los productos o servicios originarios del país andino contiene la palabra Perú en letras blancas sobre un fondo rojo, imitando los colores de la bandera nacional.

Ferreyros explicó que en el logotipo la letra P tiene estilos inspirados en las líneas de Nazca y en el símbolo arroba.

Isabella Falco, funcionaria encargada de la difusión del logotipo de Perú, dijo a la AP que este símbolo también será usado por los puestos que representen a Perú en las diversas ferias internacionales. Perú lanzará su logotipo el viernes en una ceremonia en la Bolsa de Valores de Nueva York y en una feria internacional de turismo en Berlín. □

Ecuador renueva acuerdos con ONU

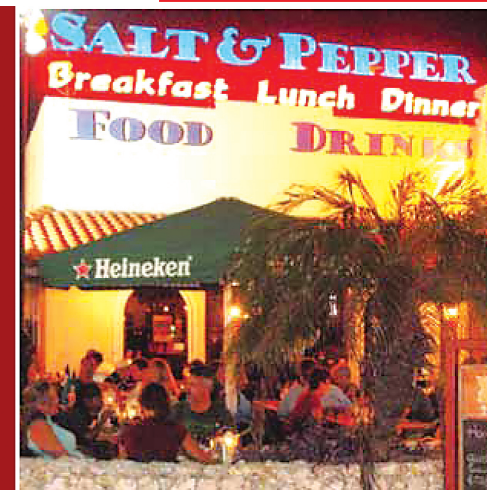
QUITO (AP) - El gobierno ecuatoriano y las Naciones Unidas renovaron el miércoles un acuerdo de control antinarcótics en los puertos y otro para aumentar la vigilancia y erradicar brotes de cultivos ilícitos.

El representante de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito para Ecuador y Perú, Flavio Mirella destacó que “no hay ningún otro país perteneciente al programa ... que haya hecho tantas incautaciones de drogas como lo ha hecho Ecuador” en alusión a las 38 toneladas de drogas y 700 kilos de precursores que decomisaron los efectivos ecuatorianos el año pasado. El programa que impulsa la oficina de la ONU funcionaba en Guayaquil pero el nuevo convenio lo amplía a todos los puertos ecuatorianos, a los cuales se les dotará de una aparato que permitirá analizar el contenido de los contenedores en los que son transportados los productos de exportación ecuatorianos.

Mirella reconoció que también se aumentará la colaboración para erradicar totalmente los cultivos ilícitos, aunque reconoció que en Ecuador son prácticamente nulos a pesar de encontrarse en medio de los dos grandes productores mundiales de hoja de coca, Perú y Colombia. □



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